Gov't tags 5 'federalist' groups in bomb scare

STORY ON PAGE A2

GMA star on the rise

STAR-STUDDED NA AKO!

THE RISING star may be slowly eclipsing the first screen superstar who became the president of the country.

With some of the biggest stars coming around these days to endorse her, President Macapagal

GMA/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Filipinos join 'Walk for Peace' in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—About 1,000 pilgrims, including Filipinos, retraced the steps of Jesus to the Old City of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, a small fraction of the usual number, a reflection of the effects of 18 months of Palestinian-Israeli violence.

In a demonstration of support for peace efforts, for the first time the

FILIPINOS/A14

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, March 26, 2002 ★ 40 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 108 P15

website: www.inq7.net

Guingona rejects envoy's apology

Mexico must make amends to Filipinos, insists VP

By Christine Herrera

"SO HUMILIATING" was the Mexican government's snub of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., that the apologies extended by the Mexican Ambassador to the Philippines were unacceptable.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) demanded that the apology must come from the Mexican Foreign Ministry "no less" for humiliating Guingona at a luncheon hosted for 150 heads of state and their delegations last March 21.

"It was not only the wrong done to the Vice President. It was the wrong done to the state and the Filipino people because Vice President Guingona was in Mexico to represent President Macapagal-Arroyo," according to DFA Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin.

On Saturday, Enrique Hubbard, Mexican envoy to the Philippines, personally extended the apologies to DFA officials. But Guingona, who was turned away from the luncheon despite a formal invitation, was not mollified.

He said the apology must come from no less than the Mexican Foreign Ministry and should be directed not only to his person but to the country, the government and the Filipino people.

"What they did to me was not an insult to my person but to the government and the people of our country," Guingona told Ebdalin when the latter recounted to Guingona, Hubbard's personal appearance at the DFA to ac-

GUINGONA/A14

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WAY OF THE CROSS

Dramatizing his protest against the American military presence, a member of an urban poor group carries the cross on his way to the US Embassy under the watchful eye of the local centurions.

Peace mission: Gov't prejudging probe

By Donna S. Cueto
in Manila
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MEMBERS of the International Peace Mission yesterday expressed concern that the Philippine government had prejudged the mission's probe of possible human rights violations in Basilan and Zamboanga, saying that this was "rather unfortunate."

In a statement, they decried the lack of cooperation from the government and the attempt by some government officials to block the mission's investigation in Basilan, "despite assurances to the contrary from Malacañang."

The peace mission's four-day probe ends today. Tomorrow, they will hold a press conference in Manila before the foreign delegates leave the country.

So far, the peace mission has been prevented from meeting with prisoners in the provincial jail on Saturday. The prisoners were supposedly arrested without warrant.

Akbayan, one of three organizations that organized the mission, said the delegates "condemned the Philippine government's obstruction of the investigation in Basilan."

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo has defended Filipino soldiers from accusations of human rights vio-

PEACE/A14

'I still carry the raw wounds from the bloody purges'

By Sister Victoria Miranda
As told to Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(Editor's Note: Sister Victoria Miranda is the nom de guerre of a Catholic nun who joined the communist underground in the 1980s. While remaining faithful to her vows, she took part in the growth of the communist movement, and later witnessed the aftermath of the purge that saw comrades killing comrades.

She is back with her religious community but she continues her work among the poor. She describes the revolutionary struggle as "the Pasch of the Filipino people.")

(First of three parts)

YOU are looking into scars I carry that are still raw, wounds underneath not fully healed, inflicted by people I love. I can only scratch the surface, or rather, the tips of the roots—*sanga-sanga*—of the Great Abomination, this *kahibangan*. Ahos, Operation Missing Link (OPML), they're names convenient to sling around any which way. (Ahos, which means garlic, refers to the bloody purge in the communist movement in Mindanao. OPML refers to the purge in Southern Luzon.)

Don't' ask me how OPML and Ahos started. I can only give, with the greatest reluctance, what I myself observed or discovered about the facts of

STILL/A14

A NUN'S STORY
An I *Team Report*

Solon warns Meralco on renewal of franchise

By Christine Avendaño,
Cynthia D. Balana
and Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco) could have a hard time renewing its franchise should it raise its power rates by as much as 116 percent, an opposition member of the House of Representatives yesterday said.

"Meralco might forfeit its chance to renew its franchise because certainly, many congressmen whose constituents are directly affected by this imminent increase will strongly oppose this plan," House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said in a statement.

Meralco's application for a new franchise is now on second reading in the House.

Militant groups warned of a "consumer's revolt" against Meralco if electricity rates were increased by 116 percent.

The electric firm reportedly stands to earn as much as P16 billion in profits from its proposed rate increase.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) and other militant groups like Gabriela and Bayan, vowed to stage a series of protest actions nationwide to oppose the increase.

SOLON/A4

Church tells penitents: Don't crucify selves

By Armand Nocum

THE CATHOLIC Church does not allow people to live the Life and Passion of Christ by nailing themselves to a cross, an official of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said.

"The Church does not encourage this," Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel, CBCP secretary general, said in an interview.

In observance of Good Friday, some penitents in San Fernando, Pampanga, and some parts of Bulacan allow themselves to be nailed to the cross. Others resort to self-flagellation.

Coronel pointed out that other activities with "physical dimension" like the "*Via Crucis*" (The Way of the Cross) were acceptable to the Church.

"But flagellation and crucifixion, we discourage that, although we do not condemn the person doing that. It is their expression of piety," he said. .

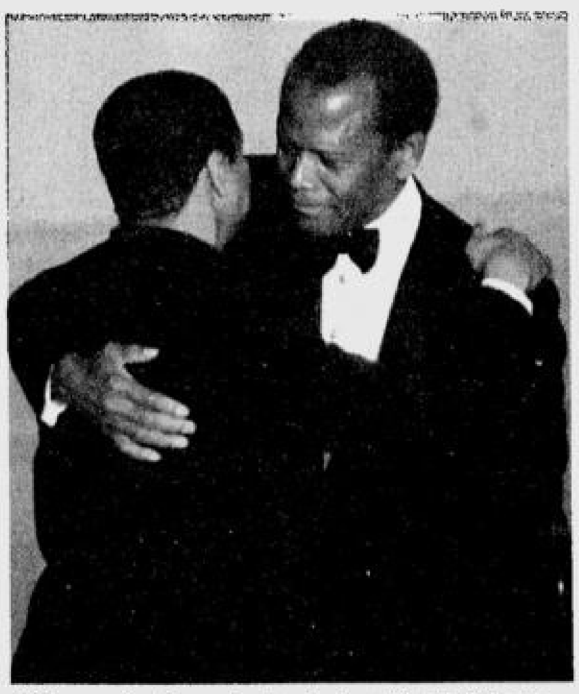
Coronel admitted that crucifixion and flagellation, which he described as "extreme forms of piety," had become

CHURCH/A4

Historic night for African-Americans at the 74th Oscars

GETTY IMAGES

UNTIL yesterday, only one black actor had won an Oscar in a lead role. Now there are 3: Denzel Washington, Halle Berry and Sydney Poitier.



"40 years I've been chasing Sydney (Poitier)," says best actor Denzel Washington. AP

BEAUTIFUL couple, John and Alicia Nash, the real people in "A Beautiful Mind." AP

LOS ANGELES—Until Sunday, just one black actor in 73 years had won an Academy Award in a lead role. Now there are three.

Halle Berry was named best actress for "Monster's Ball" and Denzel Washington took best actor for "Training Day," joining Sidney Poitier in an emotional evening as the only blacks to win those top-tier awards. ***(Full list of Academy Award winners on Page A4)***

By coincidence, Poitier was on hand to receive a lifetime achievement award. He had won his best-actor award for "Lilies of the Field" in 1963.

"Forty years I've been chasing Sidney. They finally give it to me, and they give it to him the same night," Washington said with a smile, raising his statuette in Poitier's direction.

Poitier stood and raised his in a toast to Washington.

"A Beautiful Mind," which took top honors as best picture and also won

HISTORIC/A4

Second FRONT PAGE

SINO KAYA SA KANILA?

Rallies are no good—Gloria

By Dona Pazzibugan

FOR SOMEONE who rode to the presidency on the back of "People Power," President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest public appeal strikes a jarring note.

In her weekly radio program yesterday, the President called for an end to street rallies.

"These rallies won't do the country, especially the poor, any good," she said in her opening statement.

She claimed people had grown weary of mass actions.

Even students who used to be passionate about joining rallies, she said, refused to be tagged as "activists" anymore.

"Neither can we entice investors to put their money in our country if the violent street demonstrations and clashes with the police and soldiers continue," she added.

Ms Macapagal did not point to a specific "violent" rally, but in previous weeks anti-Balikatan demonstrators usually clashed with the police.

The last street fight occurred on March 15, at the resumption of the plunder trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Violence broke out when policemen, some in plainclothes, tried to break up a peaceful anti-Estrada rally.

A plainclothes policeman was caught on television pulling out a gun while running after demonstrators.

"Let us stop the rallies and the shouting in the streets because our people are growing tired of them," the President said.

"Let us not let mob rule win over the rule of law," she said, adding that good governance was not achieved by "shouting in the streets."

5 groups eyed in bomb scare

By Martin P. Marfil and Armand Nocum

AUTHORITIES have identified at least five groups as having the best possible motive for planting the bombs in different parts of Metro Manila over the past week.

A military intelligence report identified the five groups as the People's Patriotic Movement, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansyang Makabansa, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Indigenous Peoples' Federal Army.

The five groups, the document said, had made public pronouncements in the past supportive of the move to create a federal system of government.

The IPFA, a group that is reportedly seeking to create a federal system, has claimed responsibility for planting at least eight bombs in different parts of Metro Manila last week triggering a mild panic.

Mere front

Some intelligence sources have suggested that the IPFA is a mere front for the MILF. Some of its members are said to have links with the MILF.

The MILF has said that the groups was a real organization and has even described it as a "legitimate revolutionary" group.

The manhunt for the perpetrators is focusing on "known MILF/MNLf personalities," authorities said.

The report said the groups responsible for the bombs may also have links with politicians and organizations identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, and the planting of the dud bombs could culminate in violence on May 1.

But it could also be that the bombers were being used by rightist groups out to destabilize the government, the intelligence assessment paper said.

The PPM and the RAM could be working with the Estrada-identified People's Movement Against Poverty in the latter's destabilization plans which are to culminate on May 1, the report said.

It said the PPM has links to the Philippine Consultative Assembly and the Christian Democrats.

The PPM also has close links with RAM and the two had issued a joint statement earlier titled "Building a Strong Nation," the report said.

The paper said the MILF and the MNLF could be "swayed" to heed the call for federalism, noting that during the 32nd anniversary of the MNLF a paper discussing the option of federalism was distributed.

Resurrecting Nur

The MNLF may have planted the bombs in support of detained Moro leader Nur Misuari in "an attempt to resurrect Misuari as a Muslim leader and a force to reckon with," it said.

Although authorities had earlier said that they knew nothing about the IPFA, the paper said that it was an anti-terrorist group composed of lumad (indigenous tribes), Christians and Muslims from central Mindanao.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina yesterday revealed that the police have arrested a man who is believed to be part of the group responsible for planting the bombs.

"One man was arrested in Mandaluyong and has been charged with... illegal possession of explosives," Lina told reporters.

He declined to give the identity of the suspect, but described him as a "young man" coming from the "north."

The man, who was arrested last Saturday, was found carrying bomb "paraphernalia and explosives."

He said investigators were now cross-matching the bomb powders and wiring found on the suspect with the bombs that were found last week.

'Immoral'

CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said that although the federalism issue was "valid for discussion," promoting the idea through terrorist threats was "definitely immoral."

He said that by planting the dud bombs, the pro-federalism group "defeats its own purpose by resorting to such immoral means."

Intelligence sources said the authorities were aware as early as two weeks ago about the plan to create panic by planting improvised bombs in public places in Metro Manila but were able to confirm this only last week.

The sources said they had received raw intelligence information about a supposed plan by the MNLF to plant "dud bombs" but did not act on the information as the source was not credible.

"So we never got to check and counter-check this until last week when improvised bombs were found all over Metro Manila," the sources said.

The same sources did not discount the involvement of the MNLF, the MILF and forces loyal to Estrada in the weeklong bomb scare. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio, Metro Manila, and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Military to Abu: No truce; surrender or die

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday rejected a ceasefire call from the Abu Sayyaf and said the bandits had only two choices—surrender or die.

South Command Chief Gen. Roy Cimatu told reporters the Abu Sayyaf had sent word through third parties that the group wanted a ceasefire so that one of their commanders wounded in last week's fighting could be treated.

Relatives of wounded Abu Sayyaf commander Bakal Hapilon had relayed the request that the group was willing to release the hostage Filipino nurse, Ediborah Yap, if the military would halt its attacks.

"The message was that once a ceasefire is declared, Ediborah Yap would be released and this (truce) would allow Bakal Hapilon to be treated," Southcom spokesperson Capt. Noel Detoyato said.

But Cimatu rejected the offer and said the hunt for the gunmen and their captives would go on.

"What they can do is surrender, all of them, and they should surrender all three hostages without conditions," he said.

Cimatu said that if the group released all three hostages, the military would agree that Bakal and all other Abu Sayyaf would be treated at the Southcom hospital by military doctors.

"But there will be no ceasefire," Cimatu said.

Five guerrillas were killed and six soldiers were wounded in fighting last week on Basilan island where the Abu Sayyaf has been holding Yap and US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham hostage. ***Reuters and AFP***

28 foreign terrorists blacklisted

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Immigration authorities have "blacklisted" 28 foreigners on suspicion of having links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, an official said yesterday.

Security personnel in all airports and seaports have been ordered to be on alert against those on the list "so they could be prevented from coming here to carry out terror attacks," Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a statement.

Those on the list are of "varying nationalities" and are all operating in Southeast Asia, she added without giving specific details.

An immigration official who did not want to be named said the names on the list appeared to be mostly Indonesian or Malaysian.

The list was contained in a security brief detailing al-Qaida's operations in the region distributed during a recent anti-terrorism summit in Bangkok, Domingo said.

The intelligence report identified those in the list as having participated in most of the terrorist attacks in the region over the past three years.

These include the bombing of the stock exchange and the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta 1999 and the bombings of Christian churches in Indonesia and an overhead railway in Manila the following year.

"Some of those blacklisted are already in police custody and are presently detained in countries where they have been arrested," Domingo said. ***AFP***

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines - Diliman Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to submit their prequalification documents for the Infrastructure Construction & Renovation Projects of UP Diliman for the calendar year 2002. Only licensed contractors (at least Category C) with IAC registration will be accepted. Specialty contractors for Landscaping, Electrical, Waterproofing, Communication and other Infrastructure specialty works will also be prequalified as separate groups. Contractors who are eligible will be invited to bid on the following Proposed Projects:

Renovation works at UPD Health Service
Renovation of Room 101
MBB Renovation Works at NCPAG Bldg.
CS Library & Administration Bldg.
Roof Repairs Renovation Works
Sampaguita Residence Hall Reroofing & Misc. Works
Center for Women's Studies
Reroofing of Gonzalez Hall Center for International Studies
Benton Hall Façade Improvement
CBA Bldg. Renovation of Tearoom
Alonzo Hall Power Supply for DILNET at Malcolm Hall & Bocobo Hall
Renovation Works
Vargas Museum Renovation Works
Institute of Chemistry, PH Pav. 1 & 2
Renovation of Benton Hall

Electrical Upgrade of Service Entrances:
- Malcolm Hall
- Benton Hall
- Rizal Hall
- Palma Hall & Pavilions
- CBA Building
- Palma Hall Annex
- Benitez Hall
- Bartlett Hall

UP Diliman Infogate Nat'l Inst. of Physics (NIP) Building
Phase 2 College of Architecture Building 1
Phase 2 College of Architecture Building 2
Phase 1 OA-OUR Building CSWCD Bldg.
Phase 4-B CSWCD Bldg.
Phase 5 CMC Media Center, Building 2 & 3
Various Renovation / Repair / New Construction Works and various Structured Cabling projects

Prequalification forms are now available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, Lakandula Street corner De los Reyes Street, UP-Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of P300.00. Please call 920-5301 local 8032 / 8033 or 927-8656 for further inquiries.

A letter of intent addressed to the Chancellor through the BAC is to be submitted to the Office of the Campus Architect together with the accomplished forms. Deadline of submission of prequalification or eligibility documents is on or before 5 p.m., April 16, 2002.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any required formality in the bids received, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to the University. The University assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid proposals, nor that it guarantees that a selection will be made.

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

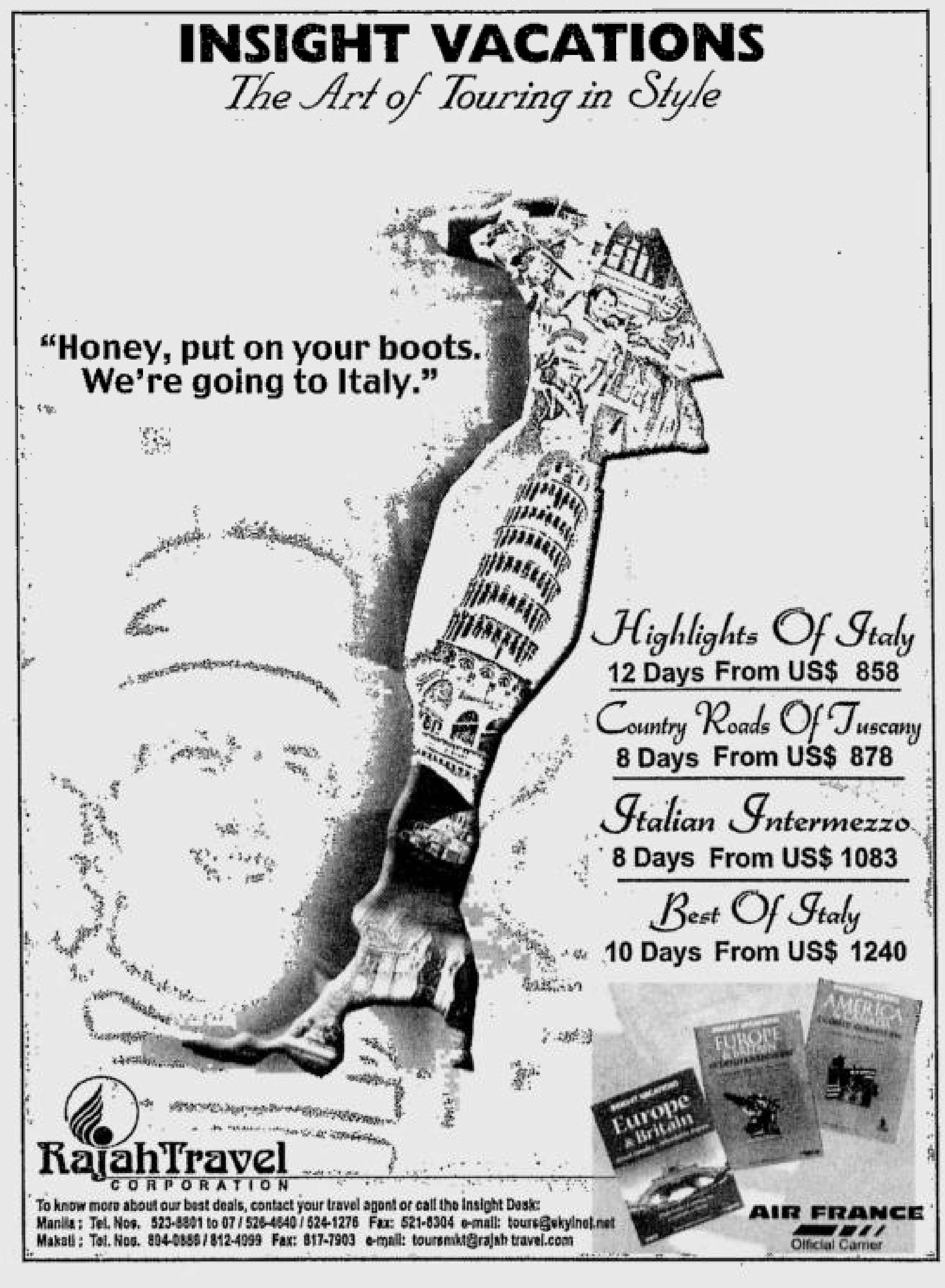
Cut this Ad worth 1 FREE YoYo Balloon Coffee Mug
BALLOON BUSINESS!
- WORKSHOP SKED.: EVERY WED. or SAT
- RESERVATION REQUIRED
- WITH FREE 2 YOYO BALLOONS!
C.B.E. YoYo Balloons (Located at SM Supermalls) ENTRANCE DECOR
ONLY P22,500.00 INITIAL CAPITAL AND YOU CAN START YOUR OWN BALLOON BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY!
INCLUDES:
- Starter Kit: 1,000 + Imported U.S. Balloons (Different Sizes, Colors & Shapes)
- Balloon Pumps, (BIG AND SMALL)
- Balloon Painting Set
- Balloon Sticks and Cups, Clip Sticks
- Giant Balloon Drop Bags w/ Balloons
- Training Workshop Conducted by U.S. Trained Balloon Experts
- Certificate, Free Lunch and Snack
- Pictures, Brochures and more
- Practicum at 5 Star Hotel or other venues
OPTIONAL: Imported Electric Inflator P7,500.00 each
SALE! -11" Rnd. U.S.A PRL. Balloon (P4.50 each) -5" Rnd. U.S.A STD. Balloon (P 1.95 each)
WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WITH OUR FREE WORKSHOP!
SUBMIT THIS AD WHEN YOU PAY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU FREE 1 YOYO BALLOON COFFEE MUG.
Call or Visit: YOYO BALLOONS 10-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines Tel. Nos.: 922-5543 • 426-2973 920-1440 • Fax No.: 922-0068
YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN TRADE NAME! NO NEED TO PAY ANY FRANCHISE FEE!
VALID UNTIL 27 APRIL 2002
THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

RICOH COPIERS
Available: Lease to Own/Rental We transact 24 Hours/Day From Monday To Sunday
Liquid Type P12,000 Powder Type P16,000
Bond Paper P65/rim Dispersant P42/ltr. U.S. SP. Toner P260/ltr.
716-6110 713-8451 KAI General Mdse. 780-0302 780-0304
In front of PUP Engineering & Architecture Bldg. QC: Bldg 3 GSIS Metrohomes, Pureza, Sta. Mesa, Manila
• Authorized Dealers •
Luzon:
Baguio (074) 3041882 / (016) 4223811 • Tarlac (045) 8000409 / (0916) 4856874 • San Fernando, La Union (0919-3353314 • Daet (054) 7215829 • Naga (054) 4720494 • Irigan (054) 6552024 • Legaspi (052) 8203345 • Masbate (056) 3332783
Visayas:
Cebu (032) 4134145 / (0917) 6002309 • Iloilo (033) 3297828 • Tacloban (053) 3253441 / (0919) 6516273 • Calbalogan (055) 2512206 • Calbayog (055) 2003322
Mindanao:
Davao (082) 2226020 / (0917) 7324178 • Gen. Santos (083) 3020743 • Cagayan De Oro (088) 2313050 / (0919) 2403098 • Iligan (063) 2215492 • Pagadian (062) 4216230 • Cotabato (064) 4216239 / (0919) 4247220

SPEECHPOWER
SUMMER 2002 CLASSES begin on April 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
COURSES FOR CHILDREN
✓ Speech for Beginners
✓ Children's Speech & Personality Development levels 1, 2 & 3
✓ Intensive Grammar Review 1
✓ Beginning Reading
✓ Reading Comprehension & Study Skills levels 1, 2 & 3
COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL
✓ English Conversation Practice 1 & 2
✓ Speech and Elocution
✓ Public Speaking & Leadership Training
✓ Intensive Pronunciation Course 1
✓ Intensive Grammar Review 2 & 3
✓ Reading Comprehension and Study Skills 4
✓ Speed Reading & Comprehension 1
- SPEECHPOWER offers the widest choices of reading, writing and speaking training courses.
- SPEECHPOWER offers the widest range of college, professional and corporate communication programs.
- SPEECHPOWER is the first to offer CALL CENTER communication courses.
Come visit us for a course that meets your special needs.
SP-Cubao 9110832 to 34
SP-Taft 5236905; 5255310
SP-España 7257262; 7357256
SP-Biñan (049) 5113450; (0919) 5138121
www.speechpower.com.ph

LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES, INC.
Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga
"QUALITY IS OUR BEST POLICY"
QUALITY GENERICS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES
LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTORS NATIONWIDE
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL:
LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICALS
#132 13th Avenue Cubao, Q.C.
TEL NO: 437-5139 / 913-3724
911-7292 / Telefax: 913-3723

MOUNT SEA RESORT
Hotel and Restaurant
163 Marcella St. Bagbag, Rosario Cavite
Tel # (046) 438 3888 Fax # (046) 438 3777
NOW ONLY... P150 NET PER HEAD
SWIMMING WITH FREE MEAL!
REGULAR PRICE : P 300/HEAD
Other Amenities/Facilities: 65 Air conditioned rooms, with mini refrigerator and cabled TV* Olympic-sized and Slide Pool*Filipino & Chinese Restaurant*Mini Zoo* Fishing Village*Pedal Boat*Volleyball*Basketball* Billiard*Obstacle Course*Function Room* Reception & Party Venues*
Near CEPZA Site. 24 Hours Transportation Accessibility Only 40 Mins. or 28Kms. away from Manila!
Note: Applies only to Day Swimming. Not Valid on any other Promo. Cut this ad and present upon entrance to avail of promo.


INSIGHT VACATIONS
The Art of Touring in Style
"Honey, put on your boots. We're going to Italy."
Highlights Of Italy
12 Days From US$ 858
Country Roads Of Tuscany
8 Days From US$ 878
Italian Intermezzo
8 Days From US$ 1083
Best Of Italy
10 Days From US$ 1240
RajahTravel CORPORATION
To know more about our best deals, contact your travel agent or call the Insight Desk:
Manila: Tel. Nos. 523-8801 to 07 / 526-4640 / 524-1276 Fax: 521-6304 e-mail: tours@skylinet.net
Makati: Tel. Nos. 894-0886 / 812-4099 Fax: 817-7903 e-mail: toursmkt@rajah travel.com
AIR FRANCE Official Carrier

Executions to resume; 2 kidnappers scheduled for lethal injection

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday confirmed the execution in August of two kidnapping convicts, marking the first time under the Macapagal administration that death convicts would be executed.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that kidnap-for-ransom convicts Roderick Licayan and Roberto Lara would be scheduled for execution by lethal injection starting August this year.

The Supreme Court affirmed Licayan and Lara's death sentences on Aug. 15 last year. Under, the law the state could already implement the death sentence one year after the Supreme Court affirmation and not later than six months thereafter.

Licayan and Lara were convicted for the kidnapping for ransom of De La Salle University coed Agnes Guirindola in Marikina some seven years ago. The kidnappers shot Guirindola and left her for dead, but she survived.

President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the moratorium on executions in October last year despite the objection of the Catholic Church and the local anti-death penalty advocates.

"Unless the law repealing the death penalty is passed, there would be no way the executions of the two convicts would be delayed," Perez told reporters at the Department of Justice yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court affirmed the death sentences of four more kidnappers.

The Supreme Court affirmed the Makati regional trial court's decision sentencing Gerardo Bacungay, Eric Ricofrando, Cris Iglesia and Renato Mendez to die by lethal injection for the kidnap-for-ransom of three Filipino-Chinese residents of Makati City in 1995.

Lawyers may call Erap to the stand

By Volt Contreras

ALTHOUGH serving an uncooperative client, Joseph Estrada's court-appointed lawyers are preparing to make their court presentation on his petition to be allowed to go to the United States for knee surgery.

They are now studying the possibility of calling him to the stand so he himself can articulate his physical sufferings before the Sandiganbayan, one of the lawyers said yesterday.

The eight court-appointed counsels for Estrada—who has dramatically dismissed his private lawyers—met yesterday to plan the defense of their controversial client.

Four of the de oficio counsels are from the justice department's Public Attorneys Office.

PAO lawyer Joefferson Toribio said it was thought that calling the ousted ex-president to the stand might be the simplest way to present their argument as he could then "fully express his exact physical condition with regard to his knees."

"He's really the only one in the best position to convince the court that he needs treatment," Toribio said.

But since Estrada has rejected the services of the court-appointed lawyers, it would still be his decision whether to take the stand or not, Toribio said.

If Estrada refuses to take their advice, "we will not be faulted for not exploring this possibility, which had also been considered by his former lawyers," he said.

In a hearing on March 15, Estrada sent mixed signals to the court. He rejected the lawyers that the court gave him, telling the justices to "do what you want to me." At the same time, however, he remained keen about wanting to have his arthritic knees treated abroad.

He even assailed his lead prosecutor, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, for "insinuating that I will not return" to the country after the surgery.

DOJ checking if Atong has Taiwanese passport

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT has mobilized its contacts in Taiwan to find out if businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang has a Taiwanese passport, which he could use to fly out of the United States if he is allowed to post bail.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said that he has already requested the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) to confirm reports that the co-accused of former President Joseph Estrada has an alternative passport.

"This information would have a significant effect on his extradition case," Perez told reporters at the DOJ.

Perez explained that one of the reasons that Ang cited in his motion for reconsideration of the US court decision denying him bail was the cancellation of his passport by the Philippine government.

"He says that if he is allowed to post bail, there would be no way for him to flee authorities because the government has already cancelled his Philippine passport," the justice secretary said.

"With a Taiwanese passport, he could flee from the US and evade extradition if he is allowed to post bail and be released," Perez said.

Perez said that aside from having filed a motion for reconsideration of the court, Ang continues to seek political asylum from the US government as he alleges that he faces political persecution in the Philippines once he is extradited.

The country has an existing extradition treaty with the US. While the Philippines pursues Ang's extradition from the US, the American government is pursuing the extradition of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

"I think he will fail in his bid to stop his extradition to the US," Perez said of Jimenez's chances of staying his eventual extradition and possible detention in the US.

US Federal Bureau of Investigation director Robert Mueler reminded Philippine authorities of his country's interest in the extradition of Mark Jimenez.

New row looms at Comelec

THE SPECIAL registration for youth voters is set to become the next battlefield for the warring factions of the Commission on Elections as both sides disagreed on the rules for the exercise.

Comelec commissioners Luz Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Rufino Javier and Ralph Lantion met in a special en banc session yesterday to sign the resolution stipulating the rules for the registration on April 22 to 27.

But the approval of the four commissioners was qualified. They dissented to certain provisions in the resolution and said they would not allow the Comelec to facilitate the registration.

Sadain said election 424 of RA 7160 states that the barangays, supported by the local government units, and not the Comelec should hold registration for the Sangguniang Kabataan polls.

He said in a press briefing yesterday that the Comelec's role according to that law was merely to set the date of the registration. The funds and operations should be shouldered by the barangays.

Lack of rules blamed for Customs dispute

THE ABSENCE of rules and legal basis was the root of the present dispute on how much the government owes the Societe Generale de Surveillance for its pre-shipment import inspection service from October 1998 to March 2000.

Instead, an arbitrary formula was introduced by one member of the government panel reviewing the obligation although it was not accepted by four other members of the team. SGS also was not consulted.

This emerged during a Senate hearing conducted recently with Sen. Rodolfo Biazon grilling Emma Rosqueta, head of the government panel, who had said that if SGS was late in billing the government, there could possibly be double billing.

Rosqueta admitted "that the disagreement (with her four other panel members) was on the formula."

"Who defines this formula? Is the formula a provision of the contract?" Biazon asked. Rosqueta said it is not and, in response to further questions, admitted that there is no universally accepted formula to settle the issue and that the four other members of the government panel had a different formula.

"Without a basis, how can we determine what is wrong and what is right... if we do not have a rule?... if there is a formula, you, as the government, must agree with SGS. There must be an agreement... for the adoption of the formula especially if it involves billions (of pesos)," he said.

Rocky Nazareno

OFWs want to see bets

By Cynthia D. Balana

CONGRESS might reconsider a ban on personal campaigning among overseas Filipino workers by candidates in the 2004 national elections.

According to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., OFWs have strongly objected to the prohibition against personal campaigning by the candidates as contained in the Senate version of the bill.

Pimentel said that OFWs told a bicameral committee which recently conducted hearings on absentee voting in Rome, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Riyadh and Dubai that they preferred to meet the candidates personally in order to better appreciate their programs for the government and the people.

He said that the ban on personal campaigning was intended to give candidates a level playing field by preventing wealthy candidates from enjoying an edge over candidates with limited resources.

"If we allow personal campaigning, that will certainly favor the moneyed candidates, especially those from the administration. But this will still be debated and decided by Congress," the senator said.

Mendez, 68

POPULAR radio broadcaster and commentator Al Mendez died last Sunday after a long and brave fight with cancer. He was 68.

Mendez barely graduated from high school and he never went to college, but he went on to become one of the pillars of the Philippine broadcasting industry.

His body lies at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches on a date yet to be announced.

GENERICS FACTORY PRICE
CASH, No Minimum Order, Money Back Guarantee
FEB. 1, 2002

Amoxicillin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	P 180.00
Carbocisteine cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	113.00
Cephalexin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	354.00
Cloxacillin cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	225.00
Co-trimoxazole cap (400/80mg)	Box of 100's	101.00
Co-trimoxazole susp. (200/40 mg)	Bot. of 60 ml	12.50
Mefenamic Acid cap 500 mg	Box of 100's	90.00
Multi-Vitamin Cap	Box of 100's	93.00
Multi-Vitamin Syrup	Bot. of 60 ml	15.40
Paracetamol syrup 250mg/5ml	Bot. of 60 ml	12.50
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	Box of 100's	31.00
Salbutamol tab 2 mg	Box of 100's	36.30
Vitamin B1+B6+B12 tab	Box of 100's	100.00

BSEG Commercial, R-210 L C Bldg. 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Tel. nos. 4101337, 4101868 Fax 4105216 More products available at website: www.cnn-generics.com email: lowprice@cnn-generics.com
DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

PC BODEGA 12A Doña Juana Rodriguez New Manila Q.C 721-4482 / 721-4682 / 724-7905 / 724-7819
Now we have two more outlets to serve you !!!
PC DEPOT Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall 682-8618 / 682-8619 Viramall Shopping Center 725-8519 / 725-8792
Guaranteed Best Price & All Brand New Components !!!

P4 INTIMIDATOR	PCB GAMETRON	PCB SMALL OFFICE
▶▶Pentium 4 1.6 GHz	▶▶AMD Duron 1 GHz	▶▶Celeron 950 MHz
128MB MEMORY, 40GB HDD 5400rpm, Built-in 32MB Savage Pro, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase	256MB MEMORY, 20GB HDD 7200rpm, 32MB GeForce Mx200 4X, 32bit Audio, 1.44MB FDD, 10/100mbps LAN	128MB MEMORY, Video Accelerator 40GB HDD 5400rpm, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase
14" LG Monitor, 56K Modem	17"Color Monitor, ATXCase	14" LG Monitor, 56K Modem
500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" 24,900	500W AVR, 180WSPKer "NETWORK READY" 22,500	500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" 18,700

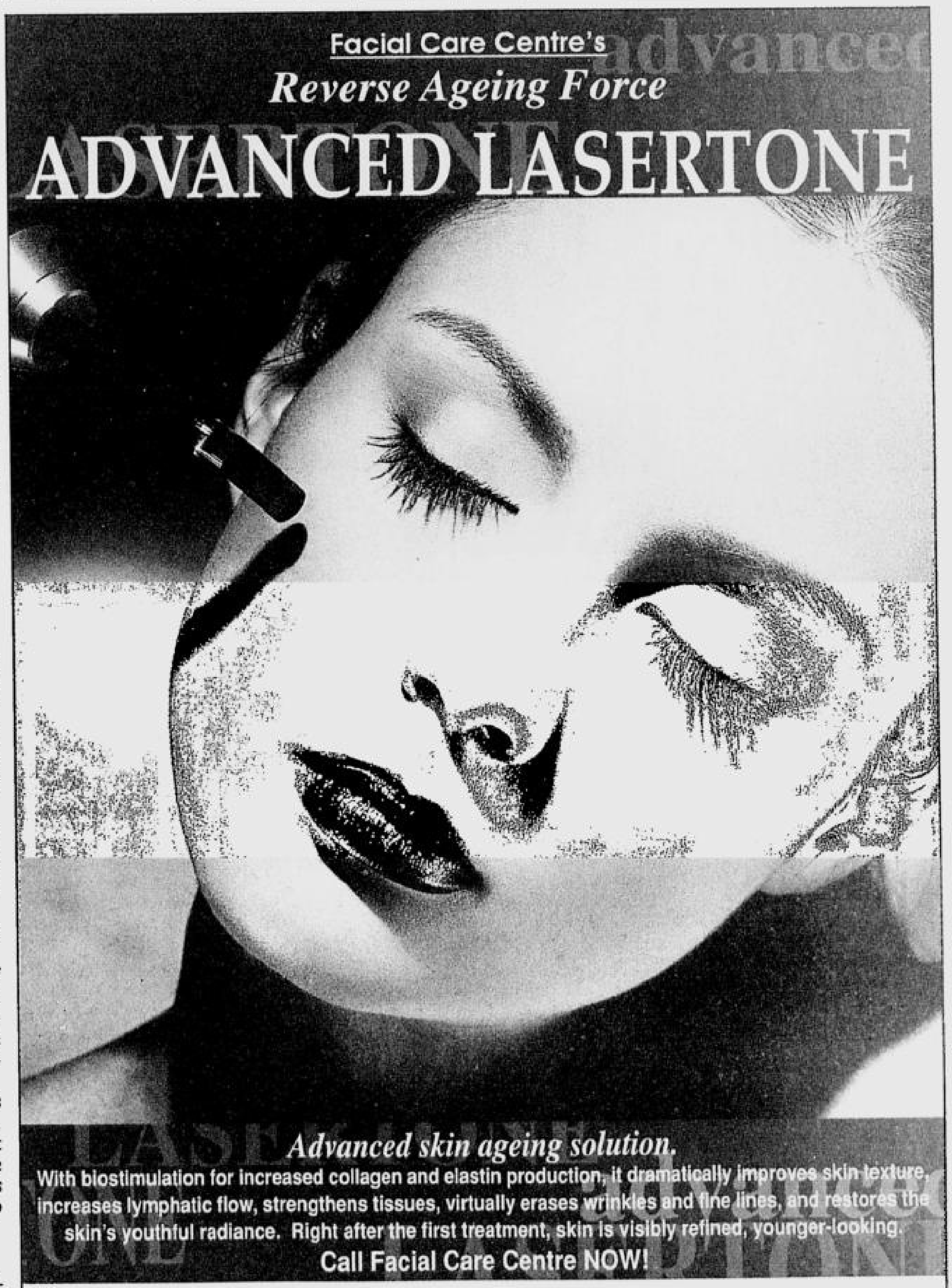
More PC Packages are available and also available in Black Color
The Best CD-Drive Ever! SONY 24x10x40 CDRW-7,000 16x48x DVD-2,950
SEAGATE BARRACUDA 40GB 5400rpm - 3,800 7200rpm - 4,800
MAG Monitor 19" XJ810-8,400 15" XJ558-4,400
www.pcbodega.com.ph ◀ Order Online !!!

WIP ARC®
HEAVY DUTY ARC WELDING MACHINES
TOUGH ON THE JOB
HIGH PERFORMANCE • PROVEN QUALITY
T-150 T-250 TR-300 TD-400 Dual-Voltage
2 YEARS WARRANTY ON WORKMANSHIP LIFETIME SERVICE WARRANTY
OVER 20,000 UNITS SOLD NATIONWIDE • EXPORTED WORLDWIDE

- Other models available: **TC-150** Transformer/Charger, **TR-300** AC/DC Single Phase, **TD-300** Dual-Voltage 220/440 V, **R3-300** 3-Phase Rectifier DC
- Machines built to **YOUR** specifications

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING HARDWARE STORES NATIONWIDE

WIP INCORPORATED
Quality Products by
WELDING INDUSTRIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
ISO 9002 TUV Certificate No. 09 100 99188
SALES OFFICE: CARTIMAR Administration Building, Pasay City • Tel. 831-2262 • 831-2263 • 831-7528 • Fax. 831-6834
FACTORY: 111 Baesa Road, Caloocan City • Tel. 364-7581 to 84 • Fax. 362-8700 • EMAIL: wipweld@evoserve.com



Advanced skin ageing solution.

With biostimulation for increased collagen and elastin production, it dramatically improves skin texture, increases lymphatic flow, strengthens tissues, virtually erases wrinkles and fine lines, and restores the skin's youthful radiance. Right after the first treatment, skin is visibly refined, younger-looking.

Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

NEW LOCATION MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1259	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	243-8138/39	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
815-3121 / 815-3123	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	243-8602 / 243-9895	920-7992 / 920-8064	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St.	631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

Historic night for African-Americans at the Oscars

From page A1

best director for Ron Howard, tied with "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" with four Oscars total at Sunday's awards ceremony.

Berry won for her portrayal of a death-row widow involved with her husband's executioner in "Monster's Ball," and Washington took his prize for playing a corrupt policeman in "Training Day."

"Oh, my God," Berry said, sobbing and gasping in between words. "I'm sorry. This moment is so much bigger than me. This moment is for Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll . . . It's for every nameless, faceless woman of color who now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened."

Goldberg whoops it

The ceremony's host, Whoopi Goldberg, who won a supporting-actress in 1990's "Ghost," acknowledged Berry's achievement.

"It has been a very large door and I'm glad she has kicked it down," said Goldberg.

Berry's acceptance speech ran about three minutes, far surpassing the suggested 45-second limit.

"It's been 74 years, I've got to take this time," said Berry, referring to the number of years that the Oscars have been presented.

Berry won a 1999 Emmy for the title role in "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," the story of the first black actress nominated for a best-actress Oscar.

Washington also had won the supporting-actor Oscar for 1989's "Glory." Among the nominees he beat Sunday was Will Smith, for "Ali." It was the first time two black actors competed against each other in the category.

It was also the second time that three black actors were in the running for lead-acting Oscars. The last time was 29 years ago, when Diana Ross was cited for "Lady Sings the Blues" and Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield were nominated for "Sounder."

Domestic roles

Before Poitier, black actors had often been relegated to roles as household help or dancing minstrels. The only previous winner had been Hattie McDaniel, who won best supporting actress for 1939's "Gone With the Wind."

Poitier worked with some of the top producers and directors of the 1950s and 1960s.

"I accept this award in memory of all the African-American actors and actresses who went before me in the difficult years, on whose shoulders I was privileged to stand to see where I might go," Poitier said.

He also acknowledged a list of Hollywood producers and directors including Walter Mirisch, Joseph Mankiewicz, Richard Brooks, Ralph Nelson, Darryl Zanuck, Stanley Kramer and Norman Jewison.

"Those filmmakers persevered, speaking through their art to the best in all of us. And I benefited from their efforts. The industry benefited from their efforts. America benefited from their efforts.

And in ways large and small the world has also benefited from their efforts," Poitier said.

Over the years, black actors have earned just 2.8 percent of Academy Award acting nominations, and only six have won, or 2.2 percent. Still, the Oscar track record shows signs of progress toward recognizing more blacks.

Four of black actors' six wins have come in the last 20 years.

Before Sunday, the most recent had been supporting-actor Cuba Gooding Jr. for "Jerry Maguire" five years ago. Black actors have earned 31 nominations since 1970, compared with just eight in the preceding four decades.

'Beautiful Mind'

Stand-by-your-spouse roles earned supporting-performance Oscars for Jim Broadbent of "Iris" and Jennifer Connelly of "A Beautiful Mind."

Broadbent took the supporting-actor Oscar for his role as the befuddled but doting husband of Alzheimer's-afflicted writer Iris Murdoch, and Connelly won the supporting-actress honor as the steadfast wife of delusional math genius John Nash.

"By some beautiful twist of fate I've landed in this vocation that demands that I feel and helps me to learn," said Connelly, who played the mathematician's wife, Alicia. "I believe in love, that there's nothing more important. Alicia Nash is a true champion of love, and so thank you to her for her example."

Broadbent thanked Murdoch's husband, John Bayley, "who allowed us to plunder and I'm sure misrepresent his life with Iris."

"A Beautiful Mind" also earned the adapted-screenplay award for Akiva Goldsman.

"I am terrified," Goldsman told the audience, after a long, falsetto laugh. "I would like to thank John and Alicia Nash for their extraordinary courage and for entrusting us with their lives."

Julian Fellowes took the original-screenplay honor for "Gosford Park," directed by Robert Altman.

"My thanks start with the great Robert Altman, who's given me the biggest break in movies since Lana Turner walked into Schwab's," Fellowes said.

"Shrek," the hip twist on cartoon fairy tales that featured the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz, won the first-ever Oscar for animated feature film.

"Thank you, members of the academy for inviting us to the party by creating this animated category to begin with," said Aron Warner, producer of the computer-animated film.

Surprise winner

The surprise foreign film award winner was Bosnia's "No Man's Land," writer-director Danis Tanovic's satiric story of a Bosnian soldier and a Serbian soldier stuck together in a trench. France's "Amelie," which had five nominations, was expected to win.

After 15 Oscar losses over the years for song or score, Randy Newman finally won for best song, "If I Didn't Have You," from "Monsters, Inc."

"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," the adaptation of part one of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic, "Fellowship of the Ring," won best score for Howard Shore and the cinematography, visual effects and makeup Oscars.

Other awards went to "Black Hawk Down" for film editing and sound, "Pearl Harbor" for sound editing, and "Moulin Rouge" for costume design and art direction—two Oscars shared by Catherine Martin, wife of "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann, who was snubbed for a best-directing nomination.

Redford award

Along with Poitier, Robert Redford received an honorary Oscar for career achievement.

Opening the show, Tom Cruise took a moment to mention the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, saying he talked with a friend about whether his work as an actor was important in light of the tragedy.

"What about a night like tonight? Should we celebrate the joy and magic movies bring? Dare I say it? More than ever," Cruise said, drawing enthusiastic applause. "A small scene, a gesture, even a glance between characters can cross lines, break through barriers, melt prejudice or just plain make us laugh."

Viewers were treated to a standup routine by past Oscar winner Woody Allen, who introduced a tribute to films shot in New York City as a way to mark the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

When the academy called to invite him, Allen joked he thought officials wanted his Oscars back. "I panicked because the pawnshop has been out of business for ages. I had no way of retrieving anything," Allen said.

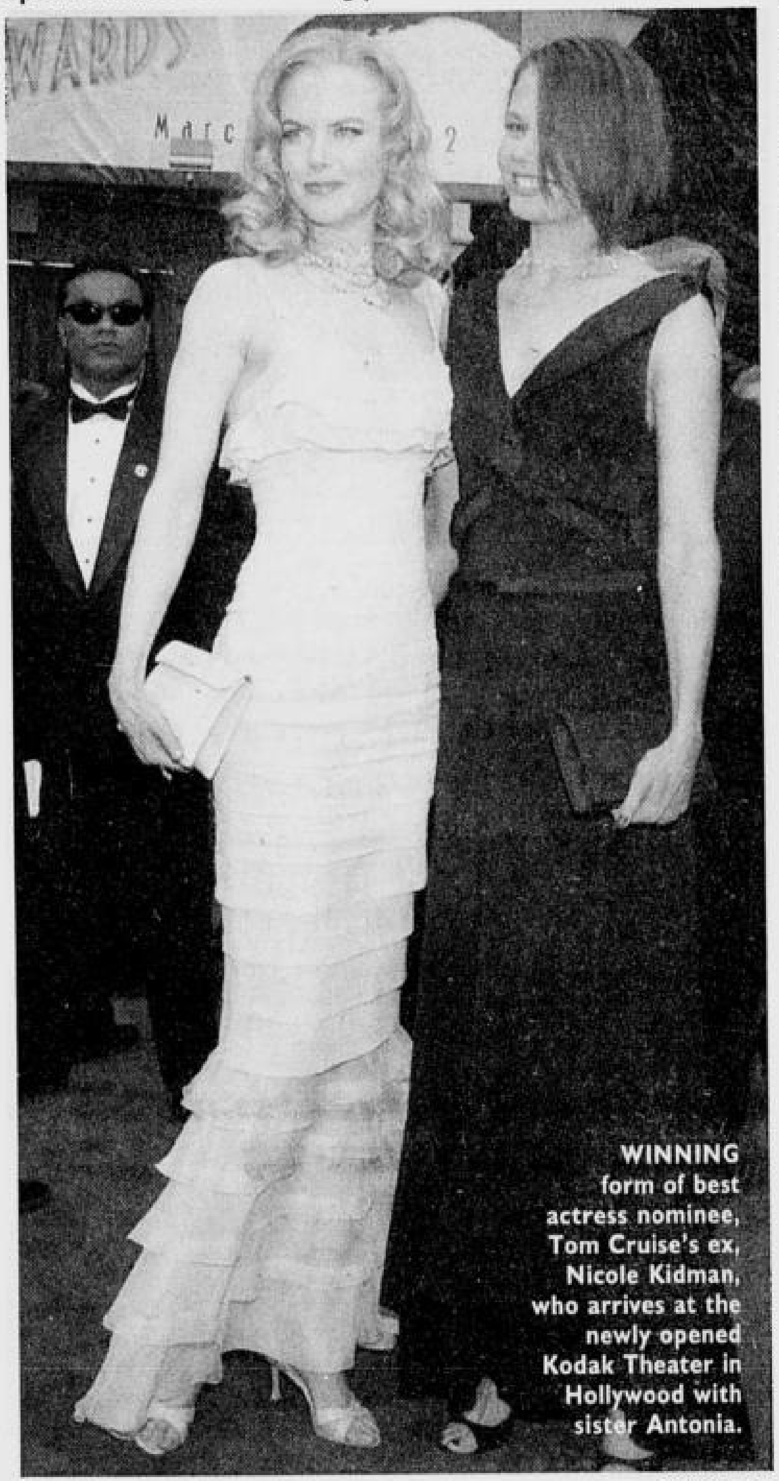
Oscar host Whoopi Goldberg made a grand entrance from the ceiling, lowered on a trapeze to the theater floor in a spoof of Nicole Kidman's first appearance in best-picture nominee "Moulin Rouge."

The Oscars returned to Hollywood for the first time since 1960.

The new site for the 74th awards was the recently opened Kodak Theatre, just across Hollywood Boulevard from the hotel where the first Oscars were presented in 1929.

The show ran a record long 4 hours, 23 minutes, breaking the 2000 mark of 4 hours, 9 minutes. *AP*

HEAVILY favored to win best actor, Russell Crowe, for his blockbuster performance in "A Beautiful Mind." His date Danielle Spencer makes for a consoling presence. GETTY IMAGES



WINNING form of best actress nominee, Tom Cruise's ex, Nicole Kidman, who arrives at the newly opened Kodak Theater in Hollywood with sister Antonia.

GETTY IMAGES

Black Oscars winners

LOS ANGELES—The list of black actors who have won Oscars, and the years of their films:

1939: Hattie McDaniel, best supporting actress, "Gone With the Wind"
1963: Sidney Poitier, best actor, "Lilies of the Field"
1982: Louis Gossett Jr., best supporting actor, "An Officer and a Gentleman"
1989: Denzel Washington, best supporting actor, "Glory"
1990: Whoopi Goldberg, best supporting actress, "Ghost"
1996: Cuba Gooding Jr., best supporting actor, "Jerry Maguire"
2001: Denzel Washington, best actor, "Training Day"; Halle Berry, best actress, "Monster's Ball."

AP

FULL LIST OF ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS

LOS ANGELES—The following is a list of the winners at the 74th Annual Academy Awards, the film industry's top honors, presented by Hollywood's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Sunday.

BEST MOTION PICTURE
"A Beautiful Mind"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Jim Broadbent, "Iris"
BEST DIRECTOR
Ron Howard, "A Beautiful Mind"
BEST LEAD ACTOR
Denzel Washington,
"Training Day"
BEST LEAD ACTRESS
Halle Berry, "Monster's Ball"
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Jennifer Connelly,
"A Beautiful Mind"
BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
"Shrek"
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
"No Man's Land"
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
"A Beautiful Mind,"
Akiva Goldsman
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY
"Gosford Park," Julian Fellowes
ACHIEVEMENT IN FILM EDITING
"Black Hawk Down," Pietro Scalia
BEST MAKEUP
"The Lord of the Rings
The Fellowship of the Ring,"
Peter Owen and Richard Taylor
BEST COSTUME DESIGN
"Moulin Rouge." Catherine Martin
and Angus Strathie
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
"The Lord of the Rings
The Fellowship of the Ring,"
Andrew Lesnie
BEST VISUAL EFFECTS
"The Lord of the Rings
The Fellowship of the Ring,"
Jim Rygiel, Randall William Cook,
Richard Taylor and Mark Stetson
ACHIEVEMENT
IN ART DIRECTION
"Moulin Rouge"
ART DIRECTION
Catherine Martin
SET DECORATION
Brigitte Broch
BEST ORIGINAL MUSICAL SCORE
"The Lord of the Rings
The Fellowship of the Ring,"
Howard Shore
BEST SOUND
"Black Hawk Down,"
Mike Minkler, Myron Nettinga,
and Chris Munro
BEST SOUND EDITING
"Pearl Harbor," George Watters II
and Christopher Boyes
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
"Murder on a Sunday Morning"
BEST DOCUMENTARY
SHORT SUBJECT
"Thoth"
BEST LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM
"The Accountant"
BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM
"For the Birds"
BEST ORIGINAL SONG
"If I Didn't Have You," from
"Monsters Inc." Music and lyrics
by Randy Newman

Reuters

Solon warns Meralco on renewal. . .

From page A1

"It is time that we consumers ask the Macapagal administration: What happened to the lower power rates it promised when the power reform law was signed?" Bayan Muna Representative Crispin Beltran said.

In a phone interview, Remulla said he would ask the House to conduct an inquiry into Meralco's proposed power rate increase, which he described as "highway robbery in broad daylight."

Remulla said Meralco, a Lopez-owned company, should explain in the House inquiry why the power rate hike was necessary as he noted that he "saw no reason for the increase right now."

"The timing is bad. Because we have yet to feel the effects of an improved economy," said Remulla, a former reporter of ABS-CBN—another Lopez-owned company.

Unjustified

The Senate will also investigate the proposed increase in electric rates.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said Meralco's proposed rate increase was unjustified at this time.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco was quoted as saying that the company's petition with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) was for a rate increase of 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour. The petition has been pending since it was filed in April 2000.

But the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) claimed that power rates would climb by as much as 116 percent for residential consumers if Meralco got what it wanted.

Bayan said Meralco was using the Electric Industry Reform Act, which mandates the unbundling of various charges, in order to sneak in a P1.12/kwh increase in basic charges and include P2.85/kwh in other charges.

Unbundling refers to the breaking down of the total power charges into its component parts—generation, transmission, distribution, supply and other charges.

Meralco also wants to remove subsidies to street lighting, small and medium-scale industries, government hospitals and the poorest segments of its customer base.

Villar said he could not understand why the power rates would have to be increased when fuel prices were stable, interest rates were low and no increase in the salaries of Meralco workers was reported.

"Where does the (justification) for the increase come from? We have to look into this. What's happening? If there are inefficiencies (on the part of Meralco and government), we should not pass the burden on to consumers," Villar told Senate reporters.

He said that officials of Meralco and the National Power Corp. would be summoned to the Senate to explain the increased rates.

Don't waste time

Elpi Cuna, Meralco's corporate communications director, said lawmakers should not waste time on issues like the company's plan to raise its rates.

Cuna said the utility firm's petition for a rate hike was only for 30 centavos/kwh. He reiterated that the firm's other petition with the ERC for the unbundling of its rates was a requirement of the power reform law.

"We did not file this to raise our charges. The law wants rates unbundled for the customers to know what they are paying for," Cuna said in a telephone interview.

Remulla said Meralco was taking advantage of the flaws in the Electric Industry Reform Act so that it could achieve an 8-percent increase in profit margin.

"Meralco is already enjoying a 3-percent profit as a power redistribution franchise servicing Metro Manila and its peripheral provinces. I was informed that it is really trying very hard to hit its 8-percent markup. This is highway robbery in broad daylight especially in these very difficult times," he said.

Remulla said the power industry act should be amended "in order to protect the ordinary consumer." He asked Meralco to "seriously reconsider" its plan to raise power rates.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, another former ABS-CBN radio and television personality, said any power rate increase should not be exorbitant.

"Although we understand that like any business they (Meralco) need to earn a profit to survive, (the hike) should not be exorbitant," Failon said.

Failon said the ERC should be given the chance to deliberate on the Meralco proposal.

"I call on the militant organizations to remain vigilant and to participate in the ERC hearings," Failon said. "I'd like to give the ERC the benefit of the doubt."

Plaza Miranda

To enable more people to take part in the hearings of Meralco's proposal, the party-list group Bayan Muna will ask the ERC to transfer the venue of the hearings to Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, to Rizal Park or to the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Cuna said Meralco's rates were based on the economic conditions in 1993. "All subsequent hikes since 1994 all went to the purchased power adjustment, which did not go to Meralco's coffers," he said.

For every peso that a customer pays, only 20 centavos goes to Meralco, according to Cuna. "The 80 centavos goes to power producers and to the government as taxes," he said.

'National electrocution'

Pamalakaya urged consumers to stage massive rallies against Meralco's proposal to increase its charges by 116 percent.

"The proposed hike is tantamount to plunder through national electrocution of consumers," Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said.

Sambajon said Meralco showed insensitivity and greediness for profit by pushing for a rate increase at this time.

The increase would affect around 2.24 million Meralco customers, mostly those consuming from 51 to 300 kwh per month. They represent 68 percent of Meralco's customers in Luzon.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno warned that the proposed rate increase would severely affect the labor sector since small and medium-scale enterprises were likely to retrench workers to save on costs.

"Any power rate hike will definitely increase production costs. With the economy's dismal situation, more and more business owners will be forced to cut jobs or close shop since they cannot absorb the rising manufacturing expenses," KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said. ***With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and Agnes E. Donato***

GMA star on the rise

From page A1

could win the starring role in the presidential election in 2004, rendering former President Joseph Estrada a has-been.

The President denied that she was deliberately wooing movie stars to her side. Being an actor himself, Estrada enjoyed wide support from the movie industry.

Nora Aunor, who vigorously campaigned for Estrada, junked him during People Power II.

Two weeks ago, Aunor appeared in a television plug in a government-sequestered network, Channel 13, endorsing the President in her self-appointed role as "Ina ng Bayan (Mother of the Nation)."

Last week, Aunor's on-screen rival, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos personally offered to help the President.

Bare-all actress Rosanna Roces sang a duet with the President at the inauguration of the market on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, last March 15.

In her radio program yesterday, Ms Macapagal said she welcomed movie stars' offer to help her win over the public though she had not sought their endorsements.

She said she did not ask Aunor to do the TV plug, but it was Aunor who offered to do it.

Ms Macapagal explained that it was Santos who wanted to do her bit for the President's media campaign when she visited Lipa City last week.

She said she asked Santos instead to help promote the government's livelihood program, Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi).

El Shaddai, too

"The constituency is the one that I am courting. Of course, if movie stars like Nora and Vilma and Rosanna offer their help, then we will accept it," the President said.

Recently, Ms Macapagal also appeared to be wooing Estrada's other known bailiwick, the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai. She observed Palm Sunday by attending El Shaddai services at dawn.

She also gave priority to the grant of lot titles to the urban poor in Tondo, Manila, and Payatas, Quezon City, where Estrada's traditional constituencies are based.

Church tells . . .

From page A1

a Filipino tradition.

This tradition on Good Friday attracts a huge number of foreign tourists and features the Philippines on international television networks.

"It becomes commercialized. It becomes a tourist attraction. We are featured on CNN and BBC," Coronel said. But in all this, the "spiritual value" of the season is lost, according to the CBCP official.

In a radio program last Sunday, Coronel said reenacting the nailing of Christ to the cross would not uplift a person spiritually if it was done for show.

He said there were other acceptable acts of piety that the Filipinos observe during the Holy Week even if the Vatican did not sanction these.

These are the "*Pabasa,*" "*Siete Palabras,*" "*Prosesyon ng Sto. Entiero,*" "*Visita Iglesia*" and the "Salubong."

US starts salvage of downed Chinook

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The United States Armed Forces yesterday started salvage work on a Chinook MH 47 helicopter which crashed some seven miles south of Apo Island on Feb. 22, killing all American eight crewmen and two passengers on board.

US Navy Lt. Commodore Richard Thiel told reporters here that 18 US Marines from the 510th Joint Task Force based in Zamboanga had arrived in Dumaguete, base of operations, to take part in search and recovery efforts.

Thiel said search and recovery could last two weeks. The work was expected to assist investigators in determining the cause of the crash, he added.

During a courtesy call on Gov. George Arnaiz on Saturday, Thiel assured officials that proper containment measures would be taken to ensure minimal environmental damage by oil spills in the event the wreckage was found and raised aboard the salvage ship.

The US Army, which is in charge of the search and recovery operation, has contracted the MV Jansteen, a Dutch multipurpose off-shore support vessel capable of depths which could not be reached by US Navy Safeguard vessels. The ship, through its A-frame, can lift a load of 150 tons.

The wreckage of the Chinook was earlier estimated to rest some 4,000 meters underwater.

An ongoing strike of stevedores at the port area prevented the MV Jansteen from docking at Dumaguete City. The ship dropped anchor some 5,000 meters from the pier.

The Philippine Navy ferried the US Marines to the vessel. Its men will also provide security during the two-week activity.

The salvage operation is being undertaken even as an eight-man team of US investigators is analyzing recovered debris and going over the statements of witnesses in an effort to determine the cause of the crash.

The investigators are from Fort Rucker, headquarters of the Air Force Special Operations Command in Alabama, the Hurlburt Field in Florida and from the US Forces in Seoul.

KALABAN NG ANAK
PAWIS, MANDARAYA SA BUWIS! ADLO
CEMENT IMPORTERS:
PAWIS, MANDARAYA SA BUWIS

CEMENT WORKERS' PROTEST
Workers from the cement industry hold a rally in front of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Monday to protest the alleged tax evasion by the country's cement importers, who are accused of dumping cheap imports into the country and, in the process, killing the local cement industry. The workers, led by Carlito Rallistan, president of the Association of Democratic Labor Organization (left) said the country's top importer paid only P951,000 in taxes after importing billions of pesos worth of cement. In contrast, they said, 97 workers of a cement manufacturer in La Union paid P3.1 million in taxes.

Gloria to vacation in Baguio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will again spend the Holy Week break in Baguio City in order to play golf.

That is, if she can squeeze it in her supposed "vacation."

Her last official schedule before flying to Baguio City for the Holy Week break is a visit to Iba, Zambales, on the morning of March 28, Holy Thursday.

She is supposed to launch an emergency employment program for Iba's urban poor.

In Baguio, she will also launch the same program.

She is also scheduled to meet with a farmers' group and a delegation from her home province of Pampanga.

CERAMIC PLAZA
THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
₱7.25* 20 cm x 20 cm (8"x 8")
₱16.50* 30 cm x 30 cm (12"x 12")
*METRO MANILA PRICE

PVC DOOR
₱ 1,495.00 only
WITH FREE DOOR KNOB

METRO MANILA BRANCHES
MANILA 1962 J. Abad Santos Ave. (Near Dynasty Tower) 253 2527 • 253-0500
QUEZON AVENUE 27-29 (& 20th BLDG.) (Near D. Tuazon St.) 731-1300
PASAY 811 EDSA Tels. 833-5510 • 834-7637
SUCAT 8706 Dr. A Santos Ave. 829-5417
MUNTINLUPA Christ The King Bldg. (Near PEPSI Plant) Tunasan Muntinlupa 861-1775
ANTIPOLO [illegible] Bldg., Masinag, Marcos Highway, Rizal 678-0092
VALENZUELA UNIT 2 #213 McArthur Hi-way Karuhatan (Near SMC Warehouse) 291 5271

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 31 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas Cavite (046)416-3743
CARMONA Sto. Madeya, National Highway, Carmona, Cavite (046)430-3227
MEYCAUAYAN JP Hermoso Bldg., McArthur Hi-way, [illegible] (044)840 0348
BALIUAG DRT Hi-way, (044)673-3595 (044)673-0446
GUIGUINTO UNIT CDC Cundangan Bldg., Tuktukan (044)690-0600
ANGELES [illegible] Bldg. 933 Henson St. (045)887-4611
TARLAC San Sebastian, McArthur Hi-way (045)800-0212

EXTENDED STORE HOURS! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY
ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS (in front of SM Southmall) Lot 7, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Bgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131 800-7132 • 800-7134
E. RODRIGUEZ 113 E. Rodriguez Avenue, (Near G. Araneta Ave.) Quezon City Tel. 732-1909
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA, Q.C. Tels. 372-4887 372-1593 • 372-5010 • 372-5011

CERAMIC PLAZA at Federal HARDWARE BUILDER'S CENTER
*OPEN 8:30AM TO 7:30PM DAILY
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-MAKATI 2260 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City Tel. 893-1064
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-CAINTA No. 8 Imelda Ave. (Near MAKRO), Cainta, Rizal • Tel. 676-1638
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-TAYTAY Manila East Road [illegible] Taytay, Rizal Tels. 284 2296 • [illegible]
FEDERAL HARDWARE-BACOOR, CAVITE Annex A Tropical Hut Bldg., Bacoor, Cavite Tel. (046) 870 2598
FEDERAL HARDWARE-IMUS, CAVITE 379 NR Aguinaldo Highway (Near Robinsons), Anabu I-C Imus Cavite Tel. (046) 875-4840
FEDERAL HARDWARE-ANGELES 500 & 571 McArthur Highway, Sto. Domingo, Angeles City Tel. (045) 888 4180

Nature's Answer To Diabetes

Amargozin
AMPALAYA CAPSULE 500 mg

MOST AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY!

Food Supplement for DIABETICS

Amargozin assists in managing blood sugar levels. Made from Ampalaya Makiling variety, which is grown only in the Philippines in organic and environment-friendly farms. Amargozin is processed in a BFAD-licensed pharmaceutical facility, which has well passed the Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) standards.

Marketed by ALTERMED CORPORATION Tel. Nos. (632) 411-6907 925-8468 • 920-1911
Manufactured by Pascual Laboratories, Inc.
BFAD FR No. 25611
Available at all mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE U.S.
Call Toll Free (800) 718-HERB HERBALSOURCE U.S.A.

SLIMMERS WORLD
HOTLINE: 887-3533

BURN FAT
GAIN LEAN MUSCLE.
PAY ONLY P39 PER VISIT on full programmes
13 CENTERS, 23 YEARS in the PHILIPPINES. 1,500 AFFILIATES WORLDWIDE.
SAVE up to P21,765
NO JOINING FEES! NO MONTHLY DUES! NO CREDIT CARDS NECESSARY.
FIRST 50 IN MARCH.

SPA TREATMENTS
DOUBLE THE FAT LOSS
Body Former, Lose 1,000 calories while you relax.
PRICES SLASHED! starting @P368 PER TREATMENT ON FULL PROGRAMMES
Milk Bath for smooth, white skin.

PROMO!!! FACE & SKIN CLINIC
FREE SKIN ANALYSIS with our Resident Dermatologist
HOTLINE: 887-3530

CALL US:
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:www.slimmersworld.com.ph or EMAIL US:inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	SM MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SALCEDO VILL.	SM NORTH	SUBIC
Karen	Herlie/Madel	Sherry	Em-em	Michelle	Ruth	Grace/Tin	Michelle	Camille	Lorie	Sheila	Aileen	Ruza
2nd Flr.	3/F Regina	6/F Panorama	Basement 1&2	27/F Atlanta Ctr.	G/F Zeta Bldg.	6/F Pan Pacific	2/F Bldg. A	1032 Arnaiz	Restaurant Ave.	27/F Trafalgar	2/F Annex Bldg.	2/F Times Square
RCBC Bldg.	Garden II	Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Ayala Center	#31 Annapolis	Salcedo St.	Hotel, Adriatico St.	Mandaluyong	Avenue, cor. EDSA	Marcos Hi-way	Dela Costa St.	Quezon City	Rizal Hi-way
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	814-0138	929-5429	252-6514

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 108
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
Assistant News Editor NILO B. PAUROM
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Deskperson ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Act of sacrifice

EDITORIAL

THAT was a heartwarming story the INQUIRER had on its front page last Sunday: Class 2002 of Xavier School's elementary department cancelled its graduation ball, and the 375 graduates' parents decided instead to use the money saved for a scholarship fund. With the money raised, they hope that at least one poor but deserving member of the graduating class will continue his high school studies at Xavier.

If other graduating classes in other private schools will follow the example of Xavier Class 2002, think of how many poor but deserving students will have the opportunity to pursue further studies. And if young people like these Xavier students can think and act this way, then the future of this nation is not entirely hopeless.

Timothy Jason Cruz Simeon, one of the three most bemedalled graduates, said that the gesture of his class is no different from the parable of the lost sheep. "It's like going out to look for one lost sheep and be willing to leave the other 99 for a while," he said. Actually, the parable refers to one repentant sinner being given more importance than 99 righteous people who have no need to repent. But by stretching the analogy, it could also refer to the one needful person who needs more help than the 99 who are well off.

Some may say that what the graduates did is no great financial sacrifice, because most of them belong to upper-class Chinese-Filipino families. Still, it must have taken a lot of discipline, self-abnegation and spirit of generosity for the boys, who normally would want to have some fun after six years of study, to forego the pleasure of a graduation ball.

The gesture of the class is very Christian, and it shows that its members have taken the school's teachings to heart and are now practicing them in their daily life. The Lord's second greatest commandment is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The members of the class (and their parents) are showing their love for their neighbors not just by proclaiming it in words but in deeds.

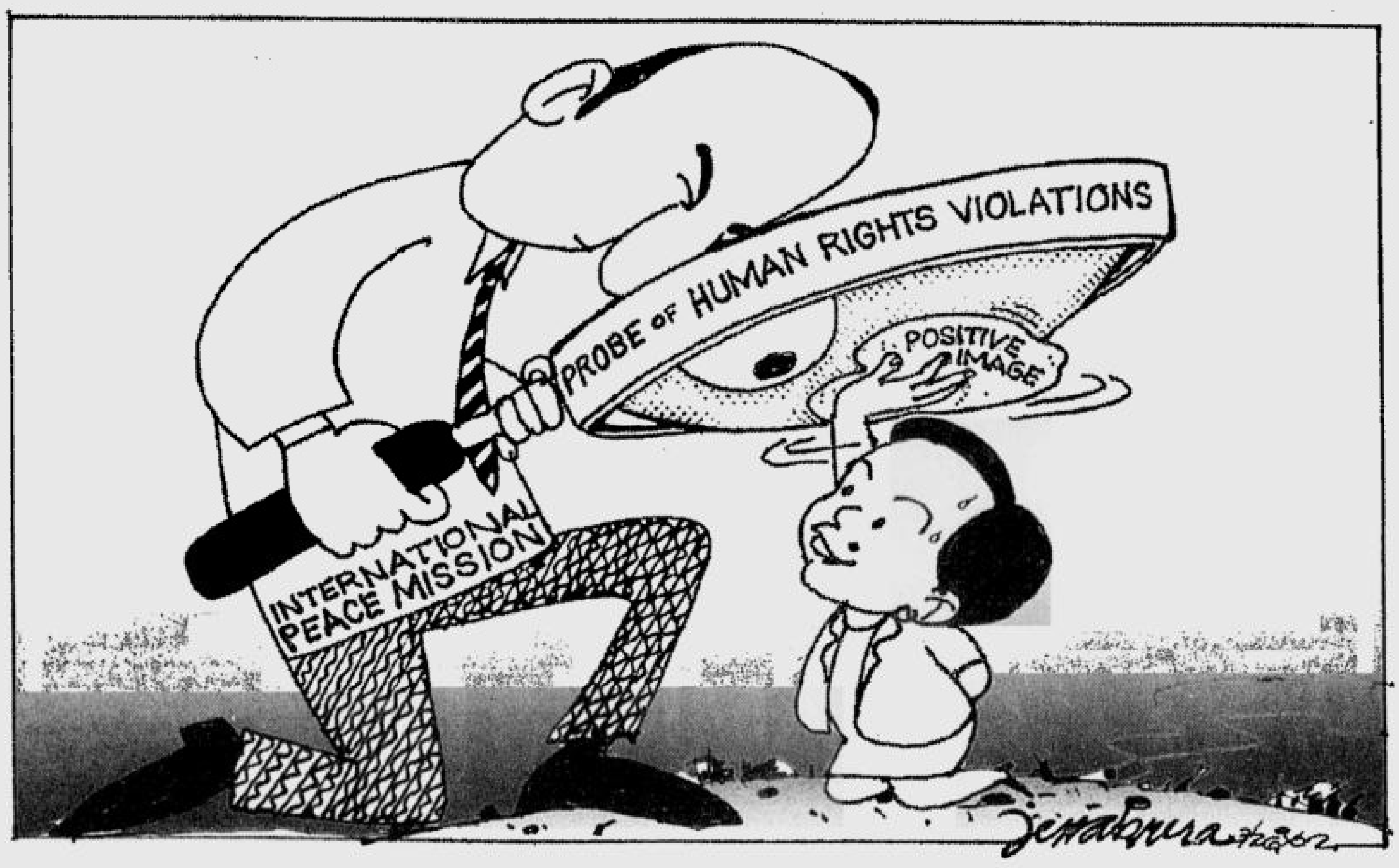
The story of the Xavier graduating class is particularly appropriate for the Lenten season. It is a story of a small sacrifice. The story of Christ's crucifixion is the story of the ultimate sacrifice: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son…." Jesus Christ as Man acceded to that sacrifice. Of course, Jesus had His moment of weakness when He asked his Father "to let this cup pass from me." But in the end He realized that it was His destiny to die on the Cross so that He may save Mankind. "No greater love hath a man than this: that he lay his life for his fellowman."

We do not ask our fellowmen to follow the example of the supreme sacrifice made by Jesus. There is only one Jesus, and no one can even come close to Him. Not even St. Francis of Assisi who, some theologians say, came the closest to being the perfect image of Jesus. But we hope that this season of sacrifice will impress upon our countrymen the need for sacrifice, for self-abnegation, so that our less fortunate fellowmen may enjoy some of the necessities that some of us take for granted.

The Graduating Class of 2002 of Xavier School has given us an example. That is only one area where the more fortunate among us can help the less fortunate. There are other more urgent cases where poor people need food, clothing, shelter, hospitalization. While the government is supposed to look after these needs of the poor, its budget is already strained to the limit. Assistance from private sources can go a long way toward alleviating the plight of the poor.

Even if you are poor, you can still help. Remember the parable of the widow's mite? Jesus observed one day a crowd putting money into the collection box in the temple treasury. Many of the wealthy put in big amounts, but a poor widow came and put two small copper coins worth a few cents. Jesus called his disciples over and told them: "I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on."

That was a real sacrifice. During this Holy Week, let us think about the down-to-earth example of Christian living and giving of the Xavier School graduates and reflect on the parables of the lost sheep and the widow's mite and the second greatest commandment of God.



Roxas can't reverse TC decision on cement

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FOREIGN-owned cement cartel has shifted the target of its propaganda offensive from the Tariff Commission (TC) to Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, perhaps because the latter is "the weakest link" in the administration's policy of free trade. For two days running, the cartel ran full-page advertisements in the newspapers asking Roxas to reverse the TC decision to dismiss the petition of the cartel to impose a P20-per-bag protective tariff on imported cement. The ads supposedly came from officials of municipalities where the cement plants are located and contractors, suppliers and service providers of the cement industry. Their names are even listed at the bottom of the ads—which much have cost hundreds of thousands of pesos. But I'm sure they did not pay for those ads. Guess who did.

Contractors? The whole Philippine Contractors Association is against imposing any tariff on imported cement because they are losing their shirts to the high-priced cement of the cartel. Government infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, buildings, schools, housing, etc.) will cost more because cement, their principal ingredient, is costing more. The poor and the middle class can no longer afford private housing.

Roxas? He is being targeted because he is regarded as "wishy-washy," neither here nor there. His decision regarding drugs (medicine) is correct and laudable. He decided to import inexpensive drugs from India to provide Filipinos with drugs at less cost because the multinational pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines are, instead of curing Filipinos, killing them with their high-priced medicines. But in the case of cement, he seems to be leaning in the opposite direction. In his published statements (or is it just the cartel putting words into his mouth?), he seems to think that protective tariff on cement (therefore, higher prices), would be good for Filipino consumers.

Roxas said the trade secretary (meaning himself) can affirm or reject the negative TC recommendation. Wrong.

The trade secretary (and also the secretary of agriculture) has no power to impose safeguard measures such as tariff without such a recommendation by the Tariff Commission, according to Section 5 of Republic Act 8800, otherwise known as the Safeguards Measures Act.

The principal author of RA 8800, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, pointed out that only when the commission recommends the imposition of tariff can the DTI modify it by either increasing or decreasing the rate, taking into account public interest. But when the commission decision is not to impose any tariff, the trade secretary cannot reverse it because there is no need for an evaluation of "public interest" at the secretary's level if the commission findings are negative, Enrile explained.

Section 5 of RA 8800 clearly states that "the Secretary shall apply a general safeguard measure upon a positive final recommendation of the Commission…(meaning, if the commission recommended the imposition of tariff).

The intention of the legislature, said Enrile, "is to provide a system of checks and balances by making the commission's findings of facts final and giving the Secretary the power to modify only the safeguard measure recommended by commission." The imposition of "safeguard measures" such as tariff and import quotas, normally results in higher prices of commodities. If there is no "safeguard" recommended, then there is nothing to modify.

The findings of facts by the commission are therefore not subject to administrative review by the trade secretary.

To make it clearer to Secretary Roxas: He has no authority to reverse or modify the decision of the commission not to impose any tariff on imported cement. Had the commission decided to impose a P20-per bag tariff, however, it is only then can he modify it by either increasing or decreasing it. *Maliwanag ba?*

Enrile reminded public officials evaluating safeguard cases that industries that have exhibited monopolistic, manipulative devices or anti-competitive conduct (such as what the cement and oil cartels have been doing) "are disqualified from availing of any safeguard actions as provided in Section 36 of RA 8800."

The purpose "is to prevent the misuse of trade remedies in perpetuating monopolies and cartels, considering that safeguard measures restrict imports and may be used as a tool by domestic industries to abuse consumers," Enrile said.

For his part Senate President Pro-tempore Manuel Villar called on Roxas, a former colleague in the House of Representatives, to uphold the decision of the commission to scrap tariff on cement imports.

Contrary to the cement cartel's threat that cement imports will mean the loss of jobs, Villar said the commission decision "will bring down the cost of cement and spur employment opportunities. Lower cement prices will promote government and public and private infrastructure projects that will give jobs to many Filipinos."

The construction industry—of which cement is a major material—has a multiplier effect on 11 other industries. The construction industry employs 1.5 million workers whereas the cement industry has only a measly 4,000 workers. Even if all the cement workers lose their jobs, cheaper cement will still mean a gain of 1.496 million jobs.

It is perplexing why cement prices have skyrocketed despite a lack of a substantial increase in demand and the fact that raw materials are sourced locally, Villar wondered. "It is clear that prices are being manipulated by the local cement cartel," he added.

Contrary to the cartel's claim that cement importers are killing the local cement industry, it was the cartel that killed it years ago when it dumped cheap imported cement, then buying out crippled Philippine cement firms, only to take over and later raise prices, Villar said. The lifting of tariff on imports will force the cartel to compete and bring down prices, he added.

"The high prices of cement is a threat to our national development," Villar said, "as cement is a vital component of infrastructure needed to move the economy forward."

Pointing fingers

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

NATIONAL Security Adviser Roilo Golez does not believe the international peace mission that has gone to Basilan will report on it truthfully. On the contrary, he says, it will only go on a "fault-finding frenzy."

"They will see human rights violations in everything the military, both the Philippine and the United States, does, but will see no evil in the ways of the Abu Sayyaf." Walden Bello, the mission organizer, he says, "is well known for his anti-American and anti-World Bank bias."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao agrees. Government, he said last weekend after the mission complained that Basilan governor Wahab Akbar had been less than cooperative, would make sure the peace mission had unhampered access to information. But he too distrusted the mission. "I would bet 100 percent that Bello would come up with a conclusion saying this is an imperialist aggression."

Well, first the part about Bello being "anti-American." That is so only if we agree with Roilo's definition of it, which is that anybody who does not agree with the US government's external policies, and bitterly arraigns them, is anti-American. If so, then he will find the majority of the world's thinking population, among them the Nobel Prize winners for peace, anti-American. Bello has lived in America a great deal of his life, he has more American friends than Roilo probably does. Annapolis, to which Roilo went, tends to instill a provincial sensibility. Part of that provincialism is to equate Richard Nixon and the two George Bushes, pere and fils, with America.

An even bigger part of that provincialism is to buy the current American president's proposition that you are either with him or you are for terrorism, you are either for American troops in this country or you are for the Abu Sayyaf. In fact, long before Roilo and others discovered the monstrosity that was the Abu Sayyaf, academics and human rights advocates, like those who comprise the peace mission, had been warning about the appearance of criminal groups like them if the Tripoli Agreement were not seriously implemented. It was the same academics and human rights advocates who also warned the world, long before most Americans heard of them, about the Talibans, a group that represented a threat to freedom of thought and to women. The notion that any self-respecting intellectual or human rights advocate would find the Abu Sayyaf less than condemnable is idiotic.

Even more so is the suggestion that Bello and the others will go on a propaganda binge. These are people who have written books and have reputations of academic and journalistic excellence to protect. That may not mean anything to those who have no books of their own. But for some people, intellectual integrity is far more valuable than any government position or ideological cause. Bello's books are there for all the world to see. They are open to question, they are open to challenge. You may not agree with them, but you may not say they are the product of sloppy research and blithe judgment.

If I remember right, one of his books "Development Debacle," written in the early 1980s, when he still lived and worked in San Francisco, became an important addition to the anti-Marcos protest. It was widely quoted as a counterfoil to the bombast of the martial law regime by those who went on to become government officials after Marcos fell, the same ones who now accuse him—even before he has produced any findings—of being a closet propagandist.

In fact, all this is just a sublime example of the wisdom of that local saying that when you point a finger at somebody, four fingers point right back at you. For even if you assume the worst, even if you assume that you are dealing with a bunch of people who have somehow managed to obtain academic and journalistic credentials but who in fact are working for Osama bin Laden, what of it? This is just one small mission, this is just one voice. Why should you be so deathly scared of it, enough to try to condition the public's mind to reject it even before it can be heard?

In the end, what Roilo and Tiglao draw attention to is not the threat of fact-finding missions intruding into the picture but the threat of local and American officials having complete monopoly over what the public may be told. What in fact do we have now? What we have now is a total dependence on the word of the local and American generals who are running the show—in more ways than one—in Basilan. The very same people who need to justify their presence there, the very same people who every utterance reeks of self-interest.

They say they have waged the war in as efficient a way as possible, despite the fact that they have not managed to rout a group of bandits in three months with the application of state-of-the-art weaponry and technology, who's to say different? They say the Abu Sayyaf, who are agents of al Qaida, are poised to export their activities to the American heartland, who's to say different? They say the American Seventh Fleet is needed in Dadiangas to stop this country from becoming the next Afghanistan, who's to say different? They are judge, jury and executioner—again in more ways than one. Information-wise, we are entirely at their mercy.

You grant the worst about the peace mission, what is it compared to this? But the people who comprise the peace mission have credentials that are there for the world to see. It's the war mongers who do not, wrapping everything they do in folds of secrecy, in blankets of national security. And expecting us to swallow everything they say, hook, line, and sinker.

Between the two, whom will you believe? Between the two, whom **can** you believe?

‘Buy Filipino’ saves jobs for Pinoy workers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A BIG group of industrialists and business executives, led by Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry; NGOs; Luis Lorenzo Jr., the presidential adviser on job generation; many legislators and local officials, signed their names to a whole page manifesto in major newspapers recently. The signatories exhorted the citizenry to buy Filipino-made products and effect more productive linkages between industry and agriculture, in order to save jobs for our countrymen and fight poverty.

The message is clear: in the light of the global economic slowdown, the recession among our traditional trading partners, and the one-sided type of economic liberalization being pushed now in the World Trade Organization, the rampant smuggling and the dumping of foreign goods here, "shipload by shipload," we Filipinos have no choice but to rely on our domestic economy, through, among others, increased domestic consumption. "With a population of around 80 million in an archipelago of 7,000 islands, a domestic-led growth is not only feasible but also sustainable," the manifesto read. I agree. But it can only be possible if all of us are patriotic enough to realize that every RP-made item means a job for a fellow Filipino. "Buy Filipino" is no idle battlecry—it spells national survival.

* * *

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Kidapawan, Cotabato, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), is perceived as non-political, so that the rare times he openly speaks out, such as when he lamented in his Holy Week message "an agony of our making," we are constrained to listen. In his strongly worded message, the CBCP president scored the "pettiness" and the penchant of our people to "make mountains out of molehills," and to sensationalize the insignificant and trivial, "all of which has caused our nation to suffer."

Quevedo also took up a spirited defense of President Macapagal, perhaps the first time he has done so. He stressed that in reaching out to the poor, the President is in a "damned-if-she does, damned-if-she doesn't" position, as she is "slammed for trying to woo the crowd of former President Joseph Estrada or for trying to play politics in order to prepare for the 2004 elections."

* * *

The same is true, Quevedo said, about the opposition to the Balikatan exercises. Screaming "deceptive headlines," he alleged, mislead readers into thinking that there are widespread protests over American participation in our fight against terrorism, when the fact is that they come from only small leftist groups. The prelate also labeled as "pure nonsense" the "imagined and overestimated strength" of the pro-Erap supporters, asserting that the polarization and massive pro-Erap support "exist only in newspaper accounts and in the minds of Erap spokespersons." Moreover, he advised that "We need not fear the claims of Estrada that the court is biased against him" for so long as justice is done in the plunder case. He warned, however, against the tendency to "create reality out of nothing," as this makes the nation suffer."

* * *

What Quevedo referred to as the prevailing predilection to "trivialization" and making mountains out of molehills perhaps typifies the running feud between Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Peter Abaya, former Environment Management Bureau (EMB) chief in the Estrada administration whom Alvarez removed from office for alleged grave misconduct. Abaya, who has good access to the media, has preferred to concentrate his attacks on Alvarez on the error the latter made regarding the school that one of his witnesses at the Commission on Appointments hearing, Dr. Mike Nunez, had attended. At the Senate hearing Alvarez said Nunez had attended Stanford University where the latter obtained his doctorate in environmental safety and health from Western States University in Missouri. Nunez himself corrected the error at that same hearing, which Alvarez later publicly admitted as an honest mistake, but Abaya continued to make a big thing out of it.

* * *

The interesting thing, however, was in three separate hearings Abaya was given by an overindulgent environment committee of the CA every chance to defend himself, thanks to the friends of his father, Rep. Plaridel Abaya of Cavite. In fact, compared to the opportunity given his critics, Alvarez appeared quite deprived of the chance to speak out, so much so that at the last hearing prior to adjournment, presided over by Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval, Iloilo Rep. Narciso Monfort got so upset that he queried, "Why, is Alvarez a statue, that he cannot speak?" After Monfort's tantrum, Alvarez got five minutes to rebut his critics.

Interestingly, however, despite all his chances to speak, Abaya never bothered to rebut the serious charge Alvarez has raised against him, and for which he sought the young man's suspension. Alvarez has charged that during Abaya's watch at EMB he violated the Montreal Protocol, to which the Philippines was signatory, by allowing a sudden alarming increase in the importation of harmful refrigerant chemicals in the year 2000, contrary to the protocol's stipulation of a decreasing importation to zero importation by 2010. Moreover, Alvarez alleged that Abaya gave the importation to eight new firms with defective documents and no business with these substances at all, including a realty firm and a manufacturer of bras and panties. Had the Edsa II not happened, charged Alvarez, there would have been six other firms that would have imported these chemicals again. These are serious charges that Abaya ought to answer.

Just one part of life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS is my "inspirational talk" delivered yesterday before the students, parents and staff of Southville International High School during their Recognition Day.

* * *

IT'S funny, but on occasions like this my thoughts turn first not to the graduates, or in your case, the awardees, but to the parents in the audience. I guess it began when I became a parent myself and became embroiled in the life work of raising children, of which paying for their formal education has become a major—and expensive—part.

The end of a school year marks not just a two—or three—month reprieve from tuition and other expenses, waking up early each morning to make sure your children start a school day right, and bracing yourself for those dreaded parent-teacher conferences where not just your child's academic performance but your own performance as a parent is weighed and judged. The summer break also serves as a transition between two grades or levels, a step up through life for a child, and yet another signpost in this journey we parents started when we set off to build a family. Friends and family with more years of parenting behind them tell me that the journey never truly ends, that even long after they have reached the age of majority and have left the shelter of our nurturing, our children will always remain our children. Day-to-day monitoring may no longer be necessary, and we may begin to feel, more and more, like spectators in our children's lives. But we can no more cut ourselves off from them than they can sever the emotional tug-and-pull we continue to exert on them. So to all parents here today: Enjoy this season, this brief reprieve from school day pressures, and the knowledge that together, you and your child have survived another phase of a long journey to maturity.

* * *

I DON'T need to encourage the young people here today to enjoy the start of their vacation. I might hazard a guess that days of endless enjoyment lie foremost in their minds today. And if only we adults would quickly go about the business of this ceremony, the sooner they could start enjoying themselves.

Still, to justify my long trip from Antipolo to Parañaque, I think I'm expected to say a few words to the students and the awardees. Here goes:

Recently, I wrote a column on the "American elephant" in our midst, a reflection on the American military presence in Basilan that I hoped to treat in a lighthearted manner by using as a metaphor a children's book that had been my children's favorite.

Anyway, I got all sorts of reactions to that column, most of them scolding me for presuming to comment on politics and war when much of my writing has been on "social" matters. As if the presence of foreign troops in our land and the escalation of a "police matter" to an anti-terrorist campaign was not a matter of social concern. In a rash moment, I allowed the disdainful comments to get to me and I wrote a scathing reply. In essence, I said that I could write on anything I wanted because it was my space and readers couldn't presume to tell me what I should write about.

* * *

THAT alone, kids, is an object lesson right there. Never allow negative comments to get under your skin. I should have known better, having spent well over two decades in the journalistic trade, that a reaction only serves to lengthen the life of a story—or in this case, the vitriol of my critics.

Anyway, after that ill-advised reaction came out, I got an e-mail from an academic, defined as someone who spends his entire life within the hallowed halls of an educational institution from which ivory tower he throws rotten tomatoes at everyone passing below.

What the academic wanted to know was what my qualifications were for commenting on national affairs, never mind if that is the work I'm paid for. Did I have a master's degree in political science?, he asked. Have I obtained a doctorate? That's the trouble with journalists, he said. We presume to analyze, comment, prescribe and criticize without the benefit of intensive study or academic preparation.

Frankly, I had to draw several deep breaths upon reading his diatribe. I had to wonder: Since when has a post-graduate degree been a requirement for observing what's going on in our world and our society? Since when did you need academic preparation for being an involved and concerned citizen? And since when did you need to flash a string of initials after your name so you could share with other people your own thoughts, feelings and dreams for your country?

* * *

I KNOW we're celebrating today, not just the end of a school year, but also the achievements of a select few whose academic performance has been deemed worthy of recognition.

But this is for all the others who are not receiving individual honors today. Formal schooling is just a part of life—an important part, I'll grant—but just one part of a life that will be filled with so many other opportunities for achievement, recognition, fulfillment and happiness. Not all of you will go on to earn honors or to forge a career in academe. But all of you have the promise of growing into responsible citizens, good parents and happy individuals. All you need to do is to connect and engage with the people around you, to be curious about what's happening around you and to care about making things better than as you find them. And I hope you all realize that even as your minds fly toward your days of endless fun, you are already on your way to fulfilling that promise.

Manila's once famous crosses

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

IT may have a lot to do with the fact that Filipinos are more cynical today, less inclined to believe in magical effects. It may also have something to do with the fact that the families that once resided in the older sections of a bedraggled city have moved on to cleaner and greener suburbs, leaving the areas to the poor and dispossessed. Whatever the reason the four crosses discussed here no longer possess the attraction they apparently exerted over Manilans. But as we pause to observe the crucifixion of Christ this week perhaps we can remember a forgotten heritage—the four crosses located in different parts of Manila.

As recorded by an article in the Philippine Free Press of April 8, 1933, the first one is the *Mahal na Cruz* on Magdalena whose caretaker was then a certain Angela Morelos who claimed the cross was 200 years old. "The relic was found in dense undergrowth at the site of the present Bambang market…by the gardener of one Margarita Icasiano." He was clearing the grounds when he espied the cross and took it to his mistress who placed it on her altar. The old woman, who was also thrifty, then noticed that she was apparently becoming wealthy (or wealthier).

Ten years later the family observed that the cross appeared to be growing and a record was kept of its measurements. After some years this turned out to be true. "It was then, she said, that she began to believe that the cross was helping her acquire her fortune." Since its discovery, the cross had never left the family but was treasured as an heirloom and kept in their chapel with candles burning. "Its scapular is believed to be endowed with medicinal powers and is often borrowed by expectant mothers for use during delivery. Ailing people make solemn vows to it to get well."

The caretaker in 1933 was Aling Elang who believed the cross to be "capricious." Once a year it was taken on a procession along Magdalena and Benavidez. In 1923 some people requested that the procession change its route and pass through O'Donnell. As the three bearers headed toward O'Donnell, they felt the cross becoming heavier so that they needed help to keep it aloft. Finally they turned back and everything was fine again. Aling Elang claimed that sometimes she could lift the cross by herself but other times it would take three people.

Another cross was known as *Cruz na Bukol* found at No. 1103 Antonio Rivera owned by Leopoldo Castillo. This cross was also believed to be miraculous and grew in length as attested by records Mr. Rivera kept. The provenance of the cross was Rome where Castillo's ancestor, Anastacio Medina, was taken by a missionary in 1658. While plowing a field he discovered a box with a small cross in it and a Spanish coin. Sixteen years later Medina returned to the Philippines bringing the box and its contents with him. The cross then was no more than a foot in height whereas it was now three feet tall.

Other notable traits attributed to this cross was the fact that it did not change its appearance and remained as new as when it was first discovered without its having to be restored. The Spanish coin was lost 40 years before according to the present caretaker. The cross has also survived five fires.

The third cross belongs to the Doroteo Celis family installed in a small chapel along Misericordia near the corner of Soler. It traces its origins to a time when the owner was sailing along one of the canals that have since been filled up when his banca capsized and unable to swim would have drowned had it not been that as he flayed his arms he got hold of the cross that miraculously appeared in the waters and carried him across.

Upon his death he entrusted it to Jose Castillo of the Royal Audiencia, specifying that it be turned over to his son, Doroteo Celis when he came of age. It was Don Jose who built the chapel on Misericordia, a street avoided by people at night because of its narrowness and the belief that it was haunted because a Spaniard had committed suicide there. Once installed, people again frequented the street because of their faith and the light shed by the candles burning in the chapel.

According to the article the original owner "willed that his name be perpetuated for the sake of the cross. The present caretaker (1933) is the second Doroteo Celis and the wish of his father is certain of being carried out because a grandson, by the same name of course, is now in second year of high school."

The fourth cross is in *Uli-Uli*, San Miguel, under the joint ownership of the Sanchez and De Ocampo families. Rescued from the Pasig River, it was believed to be 300 years old in the '30s and was still growing. It did not have a chapel but was then kept in the house of Amelia de Ocampo. It was believed to have healing powers and saved the house where it was kept from fires several times.

In one particular instance all the surrounding houses were burning but "when the cross was carried out into the street the wind, which had fanned the flames, almost immediately died down and the conflagration was stamped out."

Reality bites

YOUNGBLOOD

Vanessa A. Doctor

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I HAVE less than a month to map out the rest of my life. People call it the seniors' syndrome. For me it looks more like an absentee option. Do I really have that edge presumably granted to more than a hundred *iskolar ng bayan*? And do I actually get to choose where I'm headed after I step out of the university confines? There are a thousand jobs available and roughly 10,000 fresh graduates. The chances seem blurry. Then I begin to think about what the odds are if I go on struggling alongside hundreds of thousands desiring to be part of the Philippine work force. Most of us reluctantly choose to leave and seek greener pastures abroad, taking on jobs at the extreme end of their expected profession. How many cum laudes are in the States right now serving as nurses and housekeepers for the whites? How many well-educated and top-bred individuals endure saying "Can I take your order, sir?" at an LA McDonald's?

I would like to start a well-meaning career in the Philippines. That's what taxpayers expect me to do. That's what I can do for them in return for allowing me to spend four years at the premier university paying only P7,000 a semester. I'd like to believe that what my professors told me would bring me to greater heights. That I am special. That I am one of the few who are above the rest. That I am destined for greatness. Most of all, that I wouldn't have any problem looking for a job.

It's beginning to dawn on me now. I have been fed with lies. I do not have that edge. Reality check. I'd have to elbow my way through a sea of people to get noticed. Unlike what I have been made to believe, I still have to clamor. I don't really expect companies to fall down on their knees and beg me to work for them. It's just that I am enraged. I have been living in a dream the whole time when I thought being in UP was already living a reality. I do have a high regard for my university. I am proud of where I came from. But the pride of who I am does not seem to matter anymore. I am not even sure where my major will take me. Political Science doesn't seem like much of a career for me now that I think of it. People I know who graduated with honors from this course are sales personnel, high school teachers and telemarketers. Where are the theories we have learned? What happened to the thesis proposal we so painstakingly came up with in order to pass? What is the use of those conceptual frameworks we tried to formulate and the political philosophies we spent sleepless nights to embed in our souls? Where will my scholarly politicized mind lead me?

In the end, it all boils down to that one thing my parents told me that made me cry. "*Pag binigyan ka ng trabaho*, don't question it. Just do as you're told and do it well." My dreams have crashed. My idealism has faded. Never mind if it makes you happy or not. Just do your job. Be thankful you have it because a lot of people don't. I do not bear a grudge against my parents for that virtual slap in the face. They did me a favor. They gave me a scene from reality a lot of us from the State U try so hard to push back and ignore. We do think we're great. I do still think to some degree that I have that X-factor. Seeing my friends in far-out jobs makes me want to pity myself. And pity the rest of the undergraduates of my university who still believe they are the rulers of the world. Being in the top 15 percent of the Upcat passers is not an assurance of a good life. All efforts seem futile.

Suddenly I'm not the usual optimistic perky person anymore. I do worry about my future and where I'm headed. I have served my lot satisfactorily as a recipient of taxpayers' money. I have dreams of doing great things for my country. I feel I am worthy of the recognition I ache for. Perhaps someday I will finally get to where I'm destined to land. For now, I'd have to contend with my last month as an *iskolar ng bayan*. If I do have to clamor relentlessly for some job after graduation, I'd probably take the only sound alternative available—go back to school. Yes. And escape the ordeal for about another four years or so. It's a coping mechanism for those who cannot cope.

I am one of them. That is, if I do graduate.

Vanessa A. Doctor, 19, is a political science senior at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .?

Bacalla kidnap-slay case

MARK Harris Bacalla, son of the late Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Marciano Bacalla, was abducted on May 3, 2001 in Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City. He was in his Honda Civic car.

Investigators said that Onofre "Jun" Surat demanded a P4-million ransom from the victim's family. On May 8, 2001, an initial payment of P442,000 was received by Zaldy Cariño. On May 14, the kidnappers arranged a second pay-off to be given on May 17 where the victim's bracelet and ring would be turned over to the victim's mother. The police set up an entrapment operation and arrested Cariño who received the ransom. This led to the arrest of five more suspects, the exhumation of Bacalla's body from a shallow grave in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, and the recovery of the chopped-up spare parts of the victim's car.

It was reported that Bacalla and Surat were actually friends, and that the victim celebrated his birthday with Surat upon the latter's invitation. But when Bacalla was about to go home, Surat's cohorts abducted him and demanded ransom for his release even after he was killed.

Initially, only three of the six suspects were charged with kidnapping for ransom with homicide. They were Cariño, and Felino and Sammy Pader. The case was filed with the QC RTC on May 25, 2001. It was raffled off to Branch 76. On June 8, the court included Surat, Rodrigo Catungal and Jerro Garcia in an amended information after it granted the prosecution's motion. They were detained at the QC Jail.

On June 29, Surat, a naturalized American, was picked up by US Embassy officials Maryanne Caparas and Michael Anthony after he complained that he had been beaten up by jail officials. Upon request of the embassy, Surat was scheduled for physical examination at the East Avenue Medical Center, accompanied by the two US officials and two jailguards. While he was in the examination room, he escaped through a window. A spokesperson for the US Embassy, Frank Jenista, denied that the United States is protecting Surat and said it "has no motivation for assisting an indicted criminal to escape justice."

Cariño and the Paders, on separate motions filed in July, asked the court to allow them to post bail. During the arraignment on July 4, all accused, except for Surat who escaped, pleaded not guilty.

Last Jan. 17, the court granted bail to Sammy Pader because the evidence did not clearly define the extent of his participation. Cariño and Felino Pader were denied bail. Investigations showed that Cariño received the first pay-off from Bacalla's mother while Felino led investigators to the victim's grave after his arrest. The victim's wristwatch and sunglasses were also recovered from Felino.

Case status: The case is being tried in court. The prosecution is currently presenting its evidence. Surat remains at large while the rest of the accused are detained at the QC Jail. ***Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department***

Stop glamorizing the legal profession

ONCE again banner headlines in the front pages of our newspapers proclaim the results of the bar exams with the names and sometimes the photos of those who topped the bar. We are probably the only country in the region or perhaps in the whole world that does this.

In contrast, the concerns of the newspapers in Malaysia are basically how to increase investments in their information technology ventures, while the newspapers in Thailand are concerned with how to increase tourism. In our case we are forever debating the legality of this or the constitutionality of that. The concerns of Malaysia and Thailand produce jobs and wealth for their people, while our concerns about legality and constitutionality simply produce a lot of hot air.

Ironically we can easily beat Malaysia in information technology ventures since we produce at least 75,000 engineers a year plus another 60,000 computer graduates. Malaysia only produces approximately 4,000 engineers and computer graduates a year. Thailand draws 10 million tourists a year and their prime draw are their beach resorts in Pattaya and Phuket. Yet the beach areas in these two places are just like Matabungkay in Lian, Batangas; they are no match when compared with the pristine white sand beach areas in Boracay and Palawan.

We already have far too many lawyers, some 40,000 to 50,000 of them, while Japan has only 15,000. The Philippines has the second biggest population of lawyers in Asia, second only to Pakistan. One would think that with so many lawyers, our system of justice would be one of the best in Asia. The opposite is true. One cannot escape the conclusion with Imelda Marcos freely preening around in stretch limousines with fabulous jewelry to match, after she and her late husband's regime made the national treasury their own. What takes the cake is the circus that the Estrada case has become.

Perhaps the INQUIRER should feature the top graduates of the computer courses at La Salle, Ateneo and UP or the top 10 MBA graduates of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). The graduates of these courses will surely create something productive and add to the wealth of the country.

We should stop glamorizing the legal profession for we need more lawyers like we need a hole in the head.

Countries with too many lawyers, one study says, remain poor and strife ridden. This is precisely the case of Pakistan and the Philippines, the two countries with the most lawyers in Asia.

—RICO XERES,
Eisenhower Street,
Greenhills, San Juan

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Questioning the other person's motives

WE wish to respond to the letter to the editor of Narzalina Lim, chair of the Freedom to Fly Coalition, (PDI, 2/1/02), in which she maligned and questioned the motive of Save Our Skies (SOS) president Robert Lim Joseph in pushing for progressive liberalization of the aviation industry.

Lim based her letter on published reports attributed to Mr. Joseph wherein he reportedly stated that the local aviation industry would be killed if foreign carriers are allowed to operate domestic flights.

Mr. Joseph did not make such a statement. What he said to mediamen who interviewed him was that if the international operations of local carriers like Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific collapse as a result of open skies and undue competition from foreign airliners, this would adversely affect their domestic operations.

The SOS, a non-government organization of travel and tour agencies, freight forwarders and hotel and resort owners, is pushing for the protection of local carriers against unfair competition from foreign carriers because the demise of the local airline industry will have adverse effects on the travel and tourism sector.

Lim should be the last person to question Joseph's credibility as a leader of the travel and tourism sector considering his major contribution to the industry. Among his achievements were his successful bid to host in the Philippines the prestigious convention of the World Airlines Club Association that attracted some 500 foreign delegates and earned precious foreign exchange for the government, the conceptualization and implementation of the first ever Makati! Makati! festivity that brought together the resources of the private sector and the government to promote tourism, and the holding of seminars for travel and tourism executives and employees.

He was also the founder of many travel-related associations, including the SKAL Club of Makati. His 23 years in the airline industry before going into business saw him reaping major awards.

Lim and the Freedom to Fly Coalition should not take it personally if Joseph is working hard to protect local industries. We should be global in perspective but we should protect first our own. SOS is issues-oriented; issues that are relevant to the sensitivity of our development and progress as a nation. It is very similar to other SOS groups that promote and protect the integrity and safety of our own resources.

Now, it should be Lim who should answer these questions: Why is she pushing for the interest of foreign carriers instead of the national interest; Why is she and her group Freedom to Fly Coalition gloating every time foreign carriers get juicy concessions during air talks like the recent RP-Singapore and RP-Korea agreements? Why their persistence in pushing for open skies despite its detrimental effect on the local airline industry? Is Freedom to Fly Coalition registered? I know it has been in existence for the past five years.

—ANGEL RAMOS
BOGNOT, vice president,
Save Our Skies, president,
Afro Asian Travel, Coltrans
Compound, 2253 Aurora
Boulevard, Pasay City

Getting their act together

IN A LETTER published last week, Presidential Adviser on International Competitiveness Roberto R. Romulo said that "even threatening to do that (withdraw from the World Trade Organization) make our situation worse, not better."

The remark is in direct contradiction to Trade Secretary Mar Roxas' view who earlier threatened to pull out of the WTO, should the European Union fail to treat our tuna exports in the same manner as those produced in its former colonies in Africa. Prominent businessman Raul Concepcion echoed Roxas' view.

Without going into the merits of a withdrawal or non-withdrawal from the trade body, it would be most interesting to find out whose view will prevail, that of a cabinet member or a presidential adviser.

Let's get our act together, please.

—REYNALDO O. ARCILLA,
ambassador (ret.),
rearcii@i-manila.
com.ph

Much remains to be done

THE IDEAL picture of a functioning democracy includes an honest-to-goodness process of tax collection. This will ensure that the proportional share of the taxpayer's income is efficiently collected. In a country like the Philippines, we simply cannot afford to waste any of our resources. Sadly, reality shows often enough that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is far from being ideal. It is an institution that has its share of loopholes and limitations. Concrete proof of this are the various tax evasion cases pending in court today.

The most prominent remains to be the case of Lucio Tan. Recently, reports have it that business tycoon Henry Sy might be involved in a similar case. Whether speculative or not, the more pressing issue is why the very institutions that we are supposed to trust are not functioning properly. Tax evaders will not prevail in a society where the action is simply not tolerated. In the case of the Philippines, there remains much to be done.

—RENALYN TAN, Unit 23-
E LPL Greenhills Condo-
minium, Eisenhower St.,
Greenhills, San Juan

Pain and redemption

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TO THE WORLD, Holy Week in the Philippines is associated with the self-flagellation and crucifixion in Pampanga. So I wasn't surprised when an international television company called our anthropology department last week asking for more information about the phenomenon, and for interpretations about the role of pain in religion.

The inquiry got me talking with a colleague and fellow medical anthropologist, Dr. Eufracio Abaya, who started by pointing out how pain is so very privatized and medicalized in western societies. Pain is feared and needs to be controlled, if not eliminated, as quickly as possible, which is why there is such a large market for analgesics.

In countries like the Philippines, pain is seen in a different light. Certainly, it is considered unpleasant—the very word *sakit* is at the core of our concept of illness. At the same time, pain belongs very much to the public domain, to be talked about and expressed, sometimes even in hysterics.

Neither is pain restricted to the medical domain. In our culture, pain is a central motif in our religious experiences, tied closely to notions of redemption and salvation.

This is a good time to reiterate a point I've brought out in a column I did before: the term "*penitensiya*" is not very accurate because many of these pain-inflicting rituals are not done as penance. Quite often, these "penitential" rites are actually performed as part of a *panata* or religious vow.

The reasons for the vow will vary. Very often, it is a serious illness of a parent or a child but there have been other reasons given, some of which capture the pathos of our times: there was the case, a few years ago, of a man who had himself crucified each year as he searched for his American GI father.

There's an invisible promissory note here, as the "penitent" promises to perform the rituals each year to get a favor granted. Abaya described the process in terms of power and negotiations. The very severe rituals of flagellation and crucifixion give you more bargaining power with the heavens than just making an appeal through prayer.

Mind you, this runs counter to official Christian teachings. The heavens are supposed to listen to you, with or without the flagellation, and the church hierarchy has spoken out against these rituals of self-mortification.

But the rituals persist. I suspect partly it's because few people listen to the priests and bishops. But mostly it's because pain plays such a central role in our culture. Pain is part of *subok*, or trial, and that *subok* in turn ties into redemption, not so much in terms of going to heaven but as having more mundane appeals granted: recovery from illness, getting that elusive overseas job, or finding a long-lost GI father.

Note that there are gender differences in the way we deal with pain and redemption. The flagellation and crucifixion are mainly male rituals, and are probably rooted in a kind of machismo associated with precolonial warrior culture. Here, pain is not just publicized, but must be dramatic, gory, bloody.

There is a strong element here of *subok*, of a trial that makes you stronger, more powerful. The imagery is of the wounded warrior who is now in a better position to assert himself. It conforms to the male's domain, which is largely public, involving display and performance to boost one's status.

I suspect that maybe, too, it is penitential as well in the sense that there is punishment of the body, maybe even tied into the notion of the male body as being more prone to sinning. The norm is that the male is "by nature" lustful and promiscuous, but for this one day of the year, the male body is controlled and disciplined in an extreme way.

Contrast this to the notions of pain and suffering for women in the Philippines. The word that comes to mind is *pagtitiis* or endurance. Our women are also expected to endure great pain. This can be physical, such as that encountered during illnesses. Many of the doctors I've talked with agree that our women tend to hide their illnesses more often that men, postponing a visit to a doctor or, even after a consultation, putting off treatment because they fear that this will displace family finances.

Women's pain is endured for the sake of the family. That includes emotional pain, quite often associated with the abusive or philandering husband. The endurance is, however, private and quiet. Here, the model is that of the Virgin Mary. While the male penitent literally carries a cross down a hot dusty highway, the woman is asked to bear her Cross privately, for the sake of the children and the family. Her suffering then becomes part of her piety—think of Michelangelo's Pieta, the Virgin mourning the dead Christ. There is power, too, in this type of endurance, but it still keeps women passive as she continues with her appeal to the saints to reform the wayward husband. She appeals, rather than negotiates.

There is much to unravel in our culture of pain and redemption. We might want to look at how we, as a nation, bear our pain more like our women. We are told to be resilient and patient, to weep in silence but to go on, bravely, with life. At times though, the male in our psyches takes over, but, alas, in a way similar to that of the flagellants, our Edsas too much like the fleeting performance after which we return to the home, once again to suffer in solitude. Our redemption lies somewhere between the impulsive public displays of Good Friday's flagellants and the silent suffering of our Pieta women.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52
929-66-20 • 929-66-33 • to 35
929-70-41 to 43

NOTICE TO CFC/FREON USERS

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** through the **Philippine Ozone Desk** of the **Environmental Management Bureau** (DENR-EMB-POD) announces that due to the standing commitment of the Republic of the Philippines to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Protocol's **Multilateral Fund (MLF)** which is established by the global community to help developing countries is providing financial assistance in the form of grant or subsidy to chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-using firms and industries.

The MLF through the **World Bank** is providing ***Equipment Conversion Grant*** to those firms and industries that still use CFCs in their production. The **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)** on the other hand, offers assistance through possible ***subsidy on Mobile Air Conditioning CFC Recovery and Recycling (MAC-R&R) Machines*** for ***service shops as well as chiller replacement.***

The Government of the Philippines has but one and final opportunity to make this request for assistance. To prepare the comprehensive proposal for financial assistance from the MLF, DENR must first determine exactly who and what firms and industries are still using CFCs, as to what purpose are the chemicals used and their specific compensation needs. Thus, any CFC user not identified now will miss the opportunity for such assistance.

At present, the CFC supply in the market is decreasing. The Government of the Philippines has restricted the importation of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) via an annually declining import quota. At the same time, all of the global producers of these chemicals have, or are about to, phase out their production of CFCs (India, China, Venezuela, Argentina and Mexico). By 2005, CFCs required for the routine servicing of equipment (example R-11 and 12) and the CFC component of R-502) or the CFCs used for the cleaning of circuit boards (CFC-113) or the various CFCs used for aerosols and foam production will not likely be available for purchase from importers. The time to think about converting equipment is therefore now.

As such, all firms and industries that still use CFC are being called upon to come out and be identified in order to open the possibility of being given assistance through the aforementioned grants. Rest assured that identifying yourself as CFC-user will not result in any action other than communication with a view to securing financial and/or technical assistance for you.

If you are still using CFC-11, 12, 113, 114 or 115 in your production or business operation, please call the ***Philippine Ozone Desk*** on or before ***May 30, 2002***, at ***9252344*** or ***9281244*** and look for ***Mr. PRUDENCIO E. CALADO, III.***

(Sgd.) HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

A separate environmental agency?

THE HARDSHIP of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez before the Commission on Appointments emphasizes the need to reexamine the mandate of the present Department of Environment and Natural Resources and seriously consider the creation of a new and independent environmental agency mandated exclusively to implement environmental policies and enforce environmental laws and regulations.

When the DENR was organized in 1987, it was given the mandate to implement the policy of sustainable development, which is supposed to secure a happy balance between development and environmental protection. Actual experience however shows that the present DENR structure favors development and exploitation more than environmental protection.

There is now an urgent need to level the playing field. This can only be done by the creation of a separate and independent environmental agency with specific mandate to oversee the enforcement of environmental laws and concentrate on the faithful implementation of the constitutional mandate to "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and truthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

—ANTONIO S. TRIA, president,
The Philippine Environmental
Industry Association Inc., Unit E 9th
Flr., Strata 100 Bldg., Ortigas,
Pasig City

The presidency wired

THE PRESIDENT is accused of barnstorming this early. But she has to cover all the islands, as *Ina ng Bayan*.

To avoid the nitpicking over the presidential sorties and be in step with the information age, why not just hold town hall meetings.

The President connects to the countryside. And she does not have to travel and wear all those funny costumes.

If we are able to put a computer in every high school and barangay hall, the President connects with everybody at the stroke of a key.

If every company like Intel Philippines chips in, and every agency like the Department of Trade and Industry helps put a computer in every school, then maybe we can focus on the business of bringing the Philippines into the information age.

—ARLENE BORROMEO, 417
Amado T. Reyes St.,
Mandaluyong City

Mideast ceasefire talks fail again amid new violence

JERUSALEM—Senior Israeli and Palestinian officials failed again Sunday to reach agreement on a US ceasefire plan as violence in the Palestinian territories raged on unabated.

Although the two sides agreed to resume talks Monday, the latest failure boded ill for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who needs a truce before the Israelis will allow him to attend this week's Arab summit in Beirut.

As US envoy Anthony Zinni pressed his search for an elusive ceasefire to halt 18 months of bloodshed that has left nearly 1,600 people dead, violence flared across the territories.

Israeli forces killed seven militants, a Palestinian policeman and an unarmed man in various incidents, while gunmen shot dead two Israelis in separate attacks on the West Bank.

Zinni was hoping to nail down a ceasefire to break the cycle of tit-for-tat attacks and inject new momentum into the search for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

But an Israeli defense ministry official said that three hours of talks late Sunday in Tel Aviv "ended without results, even though the American representatives submitted a series of compromise proposals."

The official, who asked not to be named, said the Israeli-Palestinian security high committee would resume negotiations Monday.

The stakes in the latest talks were particularly high for Arafat, who has been penned up in the West Bank city of Ramallah for nearly four months because of travel restrictions imposed by Israel.

With a truce in place, the Israelis say they will let him out for talks with US Vice President Dick Cheney as well as the potentially crucial Arab summit that opens Wednesday in the Lebanese capital.

The summit will consider a Saudi proposal to offer Israel normal ties in return for its pullout from occupied lands. But the initiative could be tainted without Arafat's presence.

Cheney played down expectations Sunday, telling CNN he had no plan to meet Arafat at this time. He chided the Palestinian leader for not trying hard enough to nail down a truce deal.

Cheney said Arafat had to "get actively into that (ceasefire) plan, actually implement and begin to make progress. . . But to date, they have not gotten to that point yet."

Israel, however, should allow the Palestinian leader to attend the Arab summit, he said.

Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian international cooperation minister, said after speaking with Arafat that the chances of him attending the Beirut summit were only about 10 percent.

But Shaath told reporters in Beirut, "This could change. It could change by Tuesday because of international pressures."

Zinni arrived here March 14 on his third attempt to broker a ceasefire. But while he shuttled between the two sides hoping to end the deadlock, a spate of suicide bombings and clashes has fueled tensions.

In a hectic day of scattered violence, Israeli security sources said four suspected Palestinian gunmen were shot dead as they crossed the normally calm border from Jordan. *AFP*

Cardinal slams US priests who abuse minors

Egan, leader of the preeminent US Catholic archdiocese railed against the "evil" perpetrated by pedophile priests in his Palm Sunday homily at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral and church goers agreed it was time to address the problem directly.

Egan, spiritual leader of some 2.4 million Catholics in New York, told a standing room only Mass in Manhattan's gothic-styled landmark he had taken steps for "this evil to be stamped out," by encouraging parishioners to report abuse claims to authorities.

"Sexual abuse needs to be addressed rather than just keeping it quiet," Mark Licht, 47, on vacation from Clearwater, Florida, said on the steps of the famed cathedral, a magnet for local Catholics and those visiting the city.

A sign of the impact of the growing scandal was seen in Washington, where parishioners erupted in a standing ovation after Rev. Percival D'Silva of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament called for the resignation of Boston Cardinal Bernard Law in his Palm Sunday sermon.

Law has come under fire over the case of former priest John Geoghan, who was accused by more than 130 people of molesting them during his 30 years as a Boston-area priest but was allowed to shift from parish to parish.

CARDINAL Edward Egan, leader of the New York archdiocese, addresses the reports from across the country of alleged child abuse by clergymen during a Palm Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Mar. 24. REUTERS

Egan, himself under fire after reports he had allowed priests suspected of abuse to continue working when he was a bishop in Bridgeport, Conn. from 1988-2000, wrote a letter to parishioners on Saturday saying the Church would report allegations to authorities "if there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse and the victim does not oppose the reporting."

"Having read the letter, he has proposed very direct and accountable procedures to deal with it (sexual abuse) if it occurs in the future and to root it out as a systematic kind of problem," said Kevin O'Driscoll, 41, of North Caldwell, New Jersey.

"You can't have different rules for church people and non-church people," said Jean Stinson of Westchester, Pa. "You can't keep it separate for priests or presidents and it can't be swept under the rug." *Reuters*

Cheney: US 'deadly serious' about halting Iraq nuke bid

WASHINGTON—Vice President Dick Cheney on Sunday reiterated that Washington was "deadly serious" about preventing Baghdad from acquiring nuclear weapons and downplayed the importance of sending UN weapons inspectors back to Iraq.

"The issue's not inspectors. The issue is that he (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) has chemical weapons and he's used them," Cheney said in an interview with CNN.

"The issue is that he's developing and has biological weapons. The issue is that he's pursuing nuclear weapons."

While pressing for a return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq, Washington fears Baghdad will use the issue to stonewall and dupe the international community.

US officials instead appear to be laying the early groundwork for military action against Saddam's regime, after identifying Iraq as part of an "axis of evil" along with North Korea and Iran.

"I think it would be a great tragedy if Saddam Hussein were to be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons, and that's one of the concerns I shared as I traveled through the region last week," Cheney told NBC television.

"He (Saddam) knows we're deadly serious. Our friends and allies in the region know we're deadly serious and that we do need to find a way to address this problem," he noted.

President George W. Bush said Friday that he had "no imminent plans" to attack Iraq but said even the Iraqi leader knew the United States will eventually "deal" with him.

Speaking on the sidelines of a UN anti-poverty summit in Monterrey, Mexico, Bush said he "cannot allow" nations armed with weapons of mass destruction and hostile to the United States—like Iraq—to team up with terrorists like the al-Qaida network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on US targets.

"The president's been very clear that we will do everything we need to do to make certain that that doesn't happen," Cheney said on NBC.

On Friday, US officials accused Iraq of trying to distract the United Nations from its refusal to abide by UN Security Council resolutions by submitting a list of questions about the possible return of international weapons inspectors.

The Iraqis have reportedly asked how the UN could guarantee that its new inspectors would not spy for the United States—the charge Baghdad leveled at the former inspection team before it was withdrawn in December 1998. *AFP*

Australia drifting to right under conservative premier

By Michael Christie

SYDNEY—Once on the path to becoming a model of Scandinavian-style humanitarianism and tolerance, Australia appears to have shifted sharply to the right under conservative Prime Minister John Howard.

Boatpeople are unwelcome in a country that took in thousands of destitute Vietnamese war refugees. An apology to the 400,000 Aborigines for colonial-era injustices is off the radar screen and the British monarch is safely enthroned as head of state.

The "three Rs" of Australia's post-1960s revolution—refugees, republicanism and reconciliation—which gathered pace under Howard's center-left Labor predecessors Paul Keating and Bob Hawke, have taken the brunt of Howard's bid to brand Australia with his personal vision of social conservatism.

But it is that social vision that lies behind a dazzling series of scandals since he began his third term near the end of last year, and which his enemies hope may lead to his downfall.

"The common theme (in the scandals) is the determination of Howard and some of his colleagues to wind back, at the expense of key national institutions, the revolution in social attitudes that occurred during the Labor governments of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating," the Australian Financial Review editorialized recently.

Born on the brink of World War Two and raised when the country still pursued a "White Australia" policy and feared "the Asian hordes," Howard's views were nurtured in the white picket fence tranquility of suburban, lower middle class Sydney.

Now in its seventh year and third term in office, his government has introduced a "zero tolerance" policy on illegal immigration, refused to apologize formally to Aborigines and opposed any move to end Australia's subservience to the Queen.

At the heart of the policies is Howard's view of what he calls an "Australian ethos, a common Australian culture" that does not allow for a hodgepodge of cultures or special treatment for a minority, namely the indigenous community.

Public backing is evident through Howard's electoral success, although analysts point to a razor-thin majority of 51-49 percent when last November's ballot is regarded on a two-party basis.

Yet the hardline against asylum seekers has been sullied by revelations that government officials lied during the election campaign when they claimed a group of boatpeople threw their children into the sea to blackmail Australia into accepting them.

An unhappy defense force has been made to carry the can for poor communication lines to government ministers. *Reuters*

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

SHOPPERS' ADVISORY

HOLY WEEK STORE HOURS

Date	Store/Outlet	Store Hours
March 28, 2002 Maundy Thursday	Fiestamall	Regular Store Hours 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Terminals 1 & 2	
	Departure	5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Arrival	24-hour schedule
	Cebu Mactan	
	Pre-Departure	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	Departure/Arrival	Depending on flight schedule
	Cebu Waterfront	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
March 29,2002 Good Friday	Fiestamall	CLOSED.
	Terminal 1	Regular Store Hours
	Departure	5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Arrival	24-hour schedule
	Terminal 2	Shortened Store Hours
	Departure/Arrival	5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
	Cebu Mactan	Regular Store Hours
	Pre-Departure	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	Departure/Arrival	Depending on flight schedule
	Cebu Waterfront	CLOSED
March 30, 2002 Black Saturday	Fiestamall	Regular Store Hours 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Terminal 1 & 2	
	Departure	5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Arrival	24-hour schedule
	Cebu Mactan	
	Pre-Departure	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	Departure/Arrival	Depending on flight schedule
	Cebu Waterfront	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
March 31,2002 Easter Sunday	Fiestamall	Regular Store Hours 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Terminal 1 & 2	
	Departure	5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Arrival	24-hour schedule
	Cebu Mactan	
	Pre-Departure	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	Departure/Arrival	Depending on flight schedule
	Cebu Waterfront	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

* Fiestamall registration counter closes at 8:15 p.m.

North, South Korea agree to reopen dialogue

SEOUL—South Korea is sending a presidential envoy to North Korea next week to discuss improving relations, the rival nations said Monday, moving to resume dialogue and ease tensions in one of the world's most militarized regions.

The joint statement marks a resumption of the reconciliation process on the Korean peninsula, which stalled last year after US President George W. Bush focused criticism toward the North's communist regime.

Lim Dong-won, a special adviser to President Kim Dae-jung for diplomacy and national security, will visit North Korea in the first week of April, said Park Sun-sook, a chief presidential spokesperson.

In a report carried by its foreign news outlet, Korean Central News Agency, North Korea confirmed Lim's scheduled visit and said the two sides will discuss "the grave situation facing the nation and issues of mutual concern related to the inter-Korean ties."

Divided in 1945, the Koreas share the world's most heavily armed border. About 37,000 US troops are stationed in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Inter-Korean relations warmed after a historic summit between South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in 2000. Kim Dae-jung won that year's Nobel Peace Prize for his effort to reconcile with the North.

However, ties cooled after Bush took office and expressed skepticism about the North Korean leader. In January, relations dipped again when Bush said North Korea was part of "an axis of evil" along with Iran and Iraq, accusing them of trying to develop weapons of mass destruction.

During a visit to South Korea in February, Bush said his view of North Korea had not changed but he offered to start talks aimed at resolving the communist country's alleged development of nuclear weapons. North Korea rejected the offer.

South Korean President Kim expressed disappointment at the rejection, but said that his country should do its best to help mediate between the two sides. He said that inter-Korean ties were closely related to progress in US-North Korea relations. *AP*

New Afghan Army gets windfall of weaponry from al-Qaida caches

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Coalition forces are handing over weaponry used by Taliban and al-Qaida forces to the new Afghan administration, a US military spokesperson said Monday.

Coalition forces have found a huge amount of weaponry and ammunition in the Shahi Kot area in eastern Paktia province after the completion last week of "Operation Anaconda."

Spokesperson Maj. Bryan Hilferty said that while some of the caches were destroyed on the spot or handed over to intelligence analysts, other equipment has been given to the administration in Kabul as it seeks to build up its army.

"Often we destroy on site. We brought some back yesterday to exploit, which means to bring back and have intelligence analysts go over them," Hilferty said.

"Some of the caches have been destroyed from the air by Cobra helicopters. Some of it we give to the Afghan interim administration. As they stand up their army they need weapons and ammunitions.

"So if we find good weapons and good ammunitions, of the type that they need, we just take it from the al-Qaida and give it the Afghan interim administration."

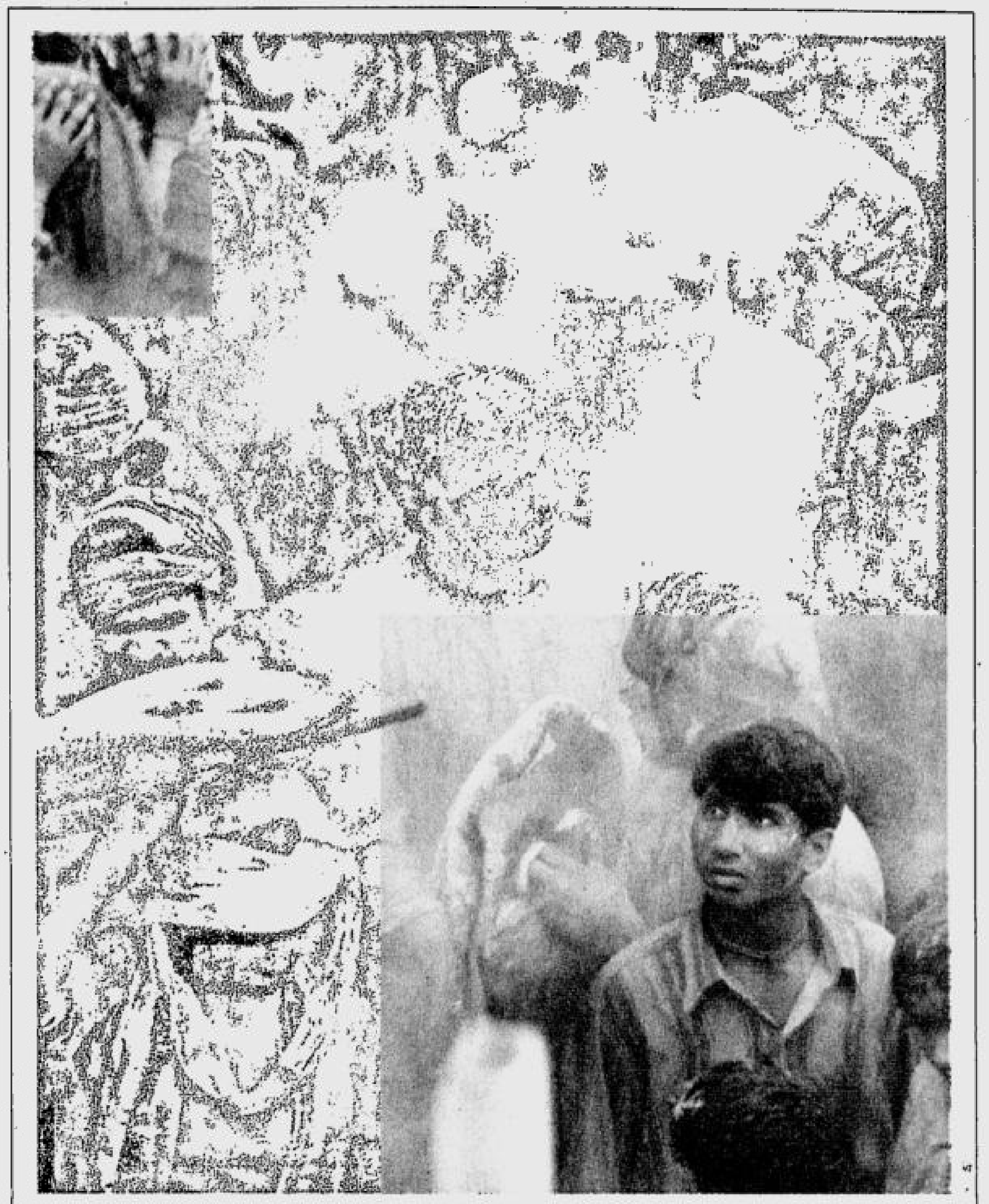
Hilferty added that "we are going to continue working with the Afghan interim administration to ensure that this country is no longer a sanctuary for terrorists."

Searches in the Shahi Kot area over the last 24 hours had also unearthed new caches of weaponry.

"In the last 24 hours we have found additional caches of small arms, machine guns, mortars, miscellaneous documents and a large quantity of munitions," Hilferty said.

"We have also destroyed several large collections of weapons and ammunitions."

The US spokesperson added that US forces were working to repair the runways at Bagram, Kandahar and Khost airports, "which will eventually be returned to the Afghan government." *AFP*



WELCOME, SPRING REUTERS

Indian men gather in a cloud of colored powder during the traditional festival of Holi in the town of Barsana, Uttar Pradesh state March 23. The tradition of Holi, popular since the times of Hindu Lord Krishna, believed to be the period between 3200 and 3100 BC, heralds the beginning of spring and is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over India.

Cuba says Mexico sold out Castro

HAVANA—Cuba accused Mexico on Sunday of selling out Cuban President Fidel Castro to the United States at last week's UN aid summit in Mexico, as a diplomatic spat over the country's marginalization as the event heated up.

Castro abandoned the summit in Mexico's northern city of Monterrey on Thursday, shortly before US President George W. Bush arrived. Senior Cuban officials later charged that Castro, Latin America's symbol of rebellion against Washington, was asked by the summit host to make himself scarce.

On Saturday, Cuba's ambassador to Mexico, Jorge Bolanos, returned to Havana, presumably for consultations, a Cuban government source said. He cautioned it "might be an exaggeration" to characterize Bolanos' travels as a protest, saying, "He could return to Mexico tomorrow."

Mexico has been a close ally of Castro's government since he took power in 1959. But relations have been strained in recent years as Mexico has moved closer economically and politically to the United States, which imposed an economic embargo on the communist-run island 40 years ago.

"The United States put a price on the Monterrey Summit, and the Mexican government accepted the deal. The money of exchange was Fidel," said a front-page editorial on Sunday in Cuba's state-run Juventud Rebelde newspaper.

Local analysts believe Castro writes or reviews all editorials published by Cuba's official media. *Reuters*

Bush denies pandering to Hispanic vote on trip

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador---US President George W. Bush accused Democrats on Sunday of "petty politics" for calling his Latin American tour an attempt to pander to US Hispanic voters, as he celebrated Central America's rebound from civil wars to democracy on the last stop of a four-day trip.

"I guess I'd say I'm disappointed," Bush said in a joint news conference with Salvadoran President Francisco Flores.

"Sometimes in Washington, D.C., people cannot get rid of old habits, which is petty politics."

Bush returned to Washington late Sunday after wrapping up a trip that also took him to Lima, Peru and Monterrey, Mexico.

Democrats in a radio address on Saturday broke a tradition of refraining from attacking the president while he is abroad. Antonio Villaraigosa, former speaker of the California state assembly, charged, "The president's trip this weekend to Latin America is part of an orchestrated strategy to curry favor with Latino voters in the United States."

It was the second time Democrats had attacked Bush while he was overseas. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota accused Bush of isolationism while he was in Europe last year.

It has been a Republican goal to increase support from the fast-growing Hispanic community in the United States. At the same time, however, Bush has repeatedly vowed to try to improve the lives of people in Latin America, who often feel neglected by their giant northern neighbor.

Bush, who thrilled Flores by calling him "mi amigo," used his particular brand of Spanglish to make the point. *Reuters*

Author charges Pulitzer winner with plagiarism

LONDON—An American author claims that historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who has acknowledged inadvertently copying material from other works, actually took the "heart and guts" from her book about Kathleen Kennedy.

In her strongest statement about the dispute, Lynne McTaggart said thousands of words from her 1983 biography "Kathleen Kennedy: Her Life and Times" were copied in Goodwin's 1987 book "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys." McTaggart said passages from 91 of the 248 pages in her book appear in the Goodwin work.

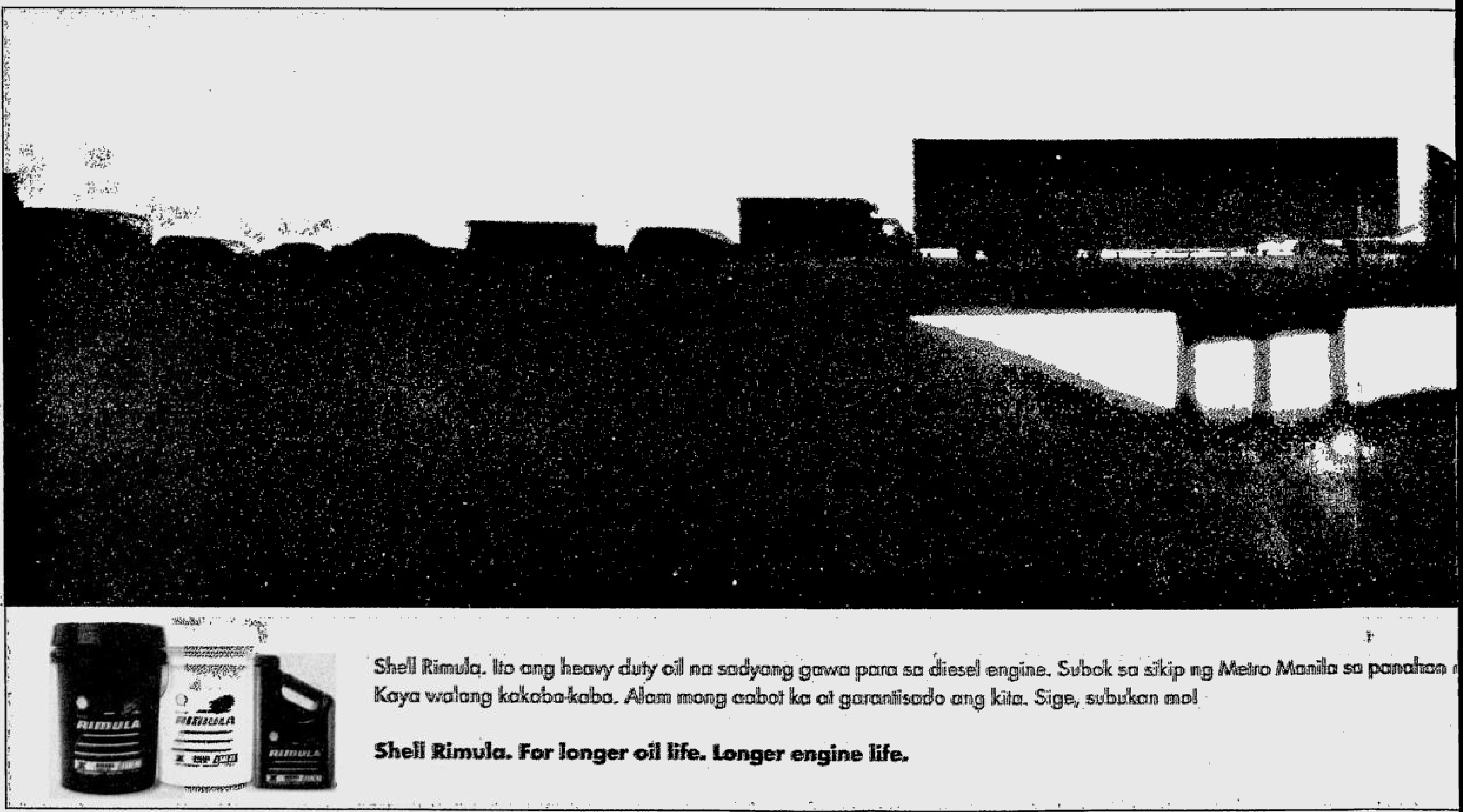
Goodwin, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history, has denied deliberate plagiarism, and her attorney said Friday that McTaggart's allegations were "preposterous."

In January, the Weekly Standard, a conservative magazine, reported that Goodwin had borrowed phrases from McTaggart's book and two other works for her volume on the Kennedys.

Goodwin told The Boston Globe that she had taken notes for the 900-page book and done the writing in longhand. She said she had copied from her notes rather than going back to the sources, sometimes losing track of which passages were hers and which were written by others.

It was "absolutely not" plagiarism, she said.

McTaggart and Goodwin reached a confidential settlement over the material in 1989, in which Goodwin agreed to add new footnotes and credit McTaggart more fully in new editions of the book. She also agreed to a financial settlement. McTaggart would not disclose the amount, but said it was a "substantial sum." *AP*



Shell Rimula. Ito ang heavy duty oil na sadyang gawa para sa diesel engine. Subok sa sikip ng Metro Manila sa panahon
Kaya walang kakaba-kaba. Alam mong aabot ka at garantisado ang kita. Sige, subukan mo!

Shell Rimula. For longer oil life. Longer engine life.

Indonesia's parliament speaker goes on trial for corruption

JAKARTA—Indonesia's parliamentary speaker appeared in court Monday in a corruption case that threatens to bring down the party that ruled this Southeast Asian country for 33 years.

Akbar Tandjung appeared relaxed as he was escorted by dozens of police officers into the Central Jakarta District Court.

State prosecutor Fachmi accused Tandjung, who also heads the Golkar Party, and two other defendants of conspiring to defraud Indonesia's state food agency, Bulog, of $3.8 million in 1999.

Fachmi told the court that former President B.J. Habibie ordered Tandjung, who was state secretary at the time, to use the funds to pay for poverty relief.

"But the facts show that the purchase and distribution of basic foodstuffs for poor people never took place," said Fachmi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

The indictment does not mention what the state funds were used for, but anti-graft activists and political opponents have long alleged that some or all of the money was used to finance the Golkar Party's 1999 election campaign. *AP*

Expect more collapses of huge Antarctic ice shelves, expert warns

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—The Antarctic's huge ice shelves may break up as ice flows across the frozen southern continent slow or even stop and the global climate warms, a senior New Zealand climate researcher warned.

Tim Naish, a senior researcher at the government-owned Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, said the collapse reported last week of the Larsen B Ice Shelf in Antarctica was "a wake-up call to expect more collapses." Such collapses would have "a dramatic effect on global climate," by disrupting ocean currents, he said in a recent interview.

Larsen B, made up of about 720 billion tons of ice, disintegrated after 50 years of sharp temperature rises on the Antarctic Peninsula unmatched elsewhere on the icy continent and in the rest of the world.

Ted Scambos, of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, one of three United States researchers monitoring the Larsen ice shelf by satellite, said other ice shelves were closer to breaking point than previously thought. Ice shelves form when ice sheets spread off the land mass.

Naish said Larsen's collapse was a warning about the stability of Antarctica's largest ice shelf, the Ross Ice Shelf, which at 536,000 sq. km covers an area the size of France.

"It is becoming especially vulnerable as huge ice streams that feed it from West Antarctica begin to slow or have stopped," he said.

Naish said even a partial collapse of the Ross Ice Shelf would be globally significant, as it would "dramatically affect ocean circulation and climate."

If average global temperatures continued to rise this century by up to 3 degrees Celsius, as climate models currently predict, he believes the bigger Antarctic ice shelves—also including several in the Weddell Sea-could become vulnerable.

He said scientists still know too little about the behavior of Antarctic ice sheets to predict whether these ice shelves will remain intact for decades or centuries.

A six-nation science team will next year drill into the seabed of the Ross Sea ice shelf as part of a study to understand the behavior of the region's ice shelves during climatic change.

The project, involving scientists from New Zealand, the United States, Britain, Italy and Germany, will include the deepest core drilling yet attempted in Antarctica. *AP*

POPE John Paul II holds his staff decorated with an olive branch during the Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square March 24. A weak-looking Pope presided at a Palm Sunday Mass but for the first time in his term, delegated a cardinal to celebrate a major Easter season event for him. REUTERS

Pope John Paul II limits part in Palm Sunday ceremony

VATICAN CITY—Bowing again to his doctors' demands, Pope John Paul II took the exceptional step of ceding his place at the altar during Palm Sunday Mass as health problems continued to exact their toll on the once tireless and robust Pontiff.

To the surprise of tens of thousands of faithful who turned out on a spring day so cold snowflakes wetted the top of the colonnade around St. Peter's Square, John Paul did not celebrate the Mass. Instead, he sat in an armchair near the altar on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica, letting an Italian cardinal celebrate the outdoor Mass.

John Paul, who turns 82 in May, read the homily and several prayers during the nearly 2 1-2 hour-long celebration, but the substitution spared him a long spell of standing behind the altar.

Persistent knee pain, blamed on arthrosis, a joint ailment, had already forced the Pope to cancel several public appearances recently, including his cherished tradition of informal visits to parish churches in Rome.

The Vatican's daily news bulletin gave no explanation for the Pope's breaking with tradition by not celebrating the Mass.

But a Vatican source said while the doctors have said that the knee is improving, they have been adamant that the Pontiff still slow down. The Pope at first balked at the idea of not celebrating Mass, which opens Holy Week, the source said. *AP*

Kahit matindi ang init sa labas, ayos ang temperatura sa loob.

**Kahit gaano kainit ang panahon,
tama ang temperatura ng makina basta may
Prestone II Longlife Coolant Concentrate.
Kaya ito ang gamitin imbes na tubig lamang.**

KUNG TUBIG LAMANG
- May taglay na mineral.
- Nagdudulot ng corrosion, pangangalawang at bara.
- Hanggang 100°C lamang ang boiling point.

PRESTONE II LONGLIFE COOLANT CONCENTRATE
- Pinipigil ang build-up ng kalawang at corrosion.
- Pinapabuti ang takbo ng cooling system ng makina.
- Sinisiguro ang pag-iwas sa overheating ng sasakyan dahil hanggang 170°C ang boiling point.

Prestone II
Heavy Duty
LONGLIFE COOLANT CONCENTRATE
ANTI-BOIL ANTI-RUST
3 LITERS

Nasa mabuti kang kamay

SA TINDI NG INIT AT TRAPIK... POPORMA KA BA?
MAG-SHELL RIMULA KA!

g tag-init.

Best for:

TRUCK
BUS
EXCAVATOR
VAN

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9936
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

LAND DISPUTE EYED

Robin brod's body found

CABANATUAN CITY—The search for movie bit player Rodolfo "Gino" Padilla, who was abducted by armed men on March 8 from his farm in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, has ended with the recovery of his body in Pantabangan town.

According to SPO3 Leon Domine, intelligence officer of the Cuyapo police, the remains of Padilla, a half-brother of actor Robin Padilla, were exhumed Saturday by members of the Philippine National Police crime laboratory, the Pantabangan police and other members of the investigating agencies searching for the victim.

The belongings of Padilla were identified by his live-in partner, Madonna Mendoza, Domine said. Padilla's remains were taken to Manila by his relatives.

Police reports said the body was first found in a ravine at Barangay Cadaclan in Pantabangan and near the Pantabangan-Baler road on March 14. His body bore bullet wounds.

Pantabangan officials ordered the decomposing body to be buried after it was not immediately identified and when nobody had claimed it.

Pictures taken of the remains of the person buried in Pantabangan and some of the belongings found were shown to Mendoza, who identified them as belonging to the missing Padilla.

The dental records of Padilla, according to police reports, matched those of the teeth of the decomposing body found on March 14.

Padilla was a resident of Barangay Bibiclat in Cuyapo. He was developing a 17-hectare area in the barangay for mango growing and *tilapia* culture. The village is 8 km from the town proper.

SPO1 Edgar Aban of the Cuyapo police said seven to eight men came to Padilla's farm on March 8 and took him. His caretaker, Sixto de Gracia, 71, was shot and killed when he tried to help Padilla.

Before leaving, the armed men burned the farmhouse, Padilla's Mitsubishi Lancer car and a mini-tractor all worth more than P1 million.

Aban said they were looking into land dispute as motive for the abduction and killing.

Padilla, 27, was a son of Roy Padilla Sr., former Camarines Norte governor and congressman, and Jenny Serafica. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Small-scale miners lose court war vs mining firms

DAVAO CITY—Small-scale miners in Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley have bigger problems than the cease and desist order (CDO) issued by Mayor Joel Brilliantes against all mining operations in December because of pollution.

They suffered defeat recently after the Court of Appeals issued a decision nullifying Administrative Order 66 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which declared a 729-hectare land as an open area for small-scale mining operations.

The ruling is expected to threaten the livelihood of an estimated 40,000 small-scale miners and their dependents.

Ma. Luisa Jacinto, regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said they received the CA ruling only last week and unless someone files a motion for reconsideration in the Supreme Court, the CA ruling will become final and executory.

That will also mean that the contested 729 hectares on Mt. Diwata would belong to the Southeast Mindanao Gold Mining Corp. (SEM) once its application to mine some 4,700 hectares of land is approved by the MGB.

On July 23, 1994, the SEM applied for a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), which small-scale miners opposed. Later, the Mines Adjudication Board (MAB) excluded the 729-hectare area from the SEM's MPSA application.

In 1999, the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) of Compostela Valley declared the 729-hectare land as a people's small-scale mining area. The decision was affirmed by the DENR.

Under the Estrada administration, when violence in Diwalwal increased, the MAB proposed a "win-win" solution where big mining corporations like JB Management and SEM can co-exist with small-scale miners in the area.

Under the "win-win solution," 729 hectares will be delineated for use of the small-scale miners while the rest of the remaining 4,000 hectares will go to the mining corporations.

"This (CA) ruling will declare the win-win solution null and void," Jacinto said.

Small-scale miners have formed a group called Monkayo Integrated Small Scale Miners Association (MISSMA), with about over 30,000 members, and have since initiated protest actions.

"We just want equal opportunity to live," Rector Gardose, spokesperson of the Mt. Diwata Coalition, said.

On Dec. 21 last year, Mayor Brilliantes issued a cease and desist order (CDO) for the closure of all gold processing plants on Mt. Diwata. A case was filed in court against the mayor and a TRO was issued.

The small-scale miners questioned Brilliantes' intention, saying that the mayor is a miner himself who operates Victory Tunnel located in Buenas-Tinago district. His company, JB Management, previously entered into an agreement with SEM.

The miners claimed that the issuance of CDO was a ploy to drive them out in the area in the guise of crusading against pollution.

But Brilliantes stressed that pollution is at its worst level on Mt. Diwalwal, especially the Naboc River, and the closure of the mining operations will give relief to the worsening condition of the river and will give it time to recover from the effects of the use of mercury and cyanide. ***Joel Escovilla and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cops hunting mayor for attempted murder of Alvarez brother

SANTIAGO CITY—Police and National Bureau of Investigation agents are looking for Mayor Jose Miranda after a Quezon City court ordered his arrest for the alleged shooting and wounding of the brother of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez in 1991.

Judge Jose Paneda of the Quezon City regional trial court issued on March 5 a warrant of arrest for Miranda and his aides—Manny Serenio, Dante Bolos and Jojo Casabar—for frustrated murder.

Supt. Renato Turingan, Santiago police chief, said Councilor Alfredo Dirige, one of Miranda's lawyers, told him that the mayor and his men would post a P200,000-bail each to avoid detention. Miranda and his men were reportedly in Manila.

The case stemmed from the 1991 shooting and wounding of businessman Reward Alvarez allegedly by Miranda's aides. The incident came after Miranda's aides and Alvarez and his companions engaged in an argument at a local beer joint.

Turingan said his men arrested Casabar, one of the aides of Miranda, on Saturday. Casabar was released after he posted a P200,000-bail.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Miranda through his mobile phone. His aides said the mayor was in Manila. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Junior INQUIRER
The Toys Hosp
And the animals loved them back
Summer Cartoon
300-Foot Long Painting!
INQUIRER

Every Saturday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Aklan power co-op head blames provincial execs for electricity woes

ILOILO CITY—The general manager of the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) has blamed top officials of Aklan for the three-day power cut-off that affected the province including the world-famous island resort of Boracay last week.

Lawyer Leovigildo Mationg also accused Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Rep. Gabrielle Calizo of being behind moves to have him suspended or ousted from his position.

He said Miraflores and Calizo, who belong to the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, want him out of the Akelco to "destroy" his political career and to protect "their business interests and corruption" in the province.

Mationg is provincial chair of Lakas-NUCD in Aklan. He lost to Calizo in the congressional race for Aklan's lone district during the May 2001 elections.

Calizo denied the accusations, saying Mationg was muddling the issue by using Miraflores and her as "scapegoats." "Who are we to influence Napocor and its decisions?" she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

She said the decision to cut off electricity to Akelco was made by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. "with authority from Malacañang" due to Akelco's unpaid debts to the Napocor.

Calizo said Mationg should inhibit himself from the Akelco "out of delicadeza" because the National Electrification Administration (NEA) has taken over the operations of the cooperative.

But Mationg vowed to resist moves to oust him from the cooperative. "I will step down in my own time," he said.

A blackout hit Aklan's 17 towns, including Malay where Boracay Island belongs, and Antique's two towns after the Napocor cut off power to the Akelco on March 18 for the cooperative's failure to pay P105 million in bills for the past four months.

Electricity was restored at 5 p.m. on March 20 after the NEA took over the Akelco operations.

Miraflores and consumers, including resort owners in Boracay, blamed "mismanagement" as the cause of the electricity problems that plagued Akelco consumers for the past years.

"It is obvious that because of his (Mationg) management style the problems that led to the cut-off of electricity in Aklan came up," said Miraflores.

On March 21, a faction of the Akelco board of directors headed by Chito Peralta passed Resolution No. 18, declaring vacant the position of general manager due to loss of confidence on Mationg.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/26/02

ROUNDUP

Grenade kills nurse

TACLOBAN CITY—A registered nurse assigned at the Department of Health here was killed when a hand grenade exploded inside her room at Phase 4 Extension, V&G Subdivision this city. Police identified the victim as Melba Collera, 44. Initial investigation showed that the grenade exploded while Collera was opening the door. At that time, she had just arrived from Manila where she attended a three-day seminar. Police said investigation was still being conducted to determine who tied the grenade around the doorknob of Collera's room. Elvie Urgel, the victim's cousin, said her brother Raul was inside the house preparing breakfast when the grenade exploded. Urgel added that Collera's house was always left to her brother's care every time she was away. Collera's husband and four children have migrated to Chicago.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fire destroys 34 houses

BACOLOD CITY—At least 34 houses were destroyed while eight others were damaged when fire razed an urban poor area in Barangay 10 about 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. No one was reported injured in the fire that destroyed about P5 million worth of property in Purok Tambi-palad, Barangay 10. Senior Insp. Jerry Candido, Bacolod fire marshal, said the fire started from the house of Henry Garrido, a councilor of Barangay 10. Garrido said he believed that his house was intentionally set on fire. But Candido said two witnesses saw that the fire started from the ceiling on the second floor of Garrido's house. "We have recovered melted electrical wires during our inspection of the debris at the fire scene," he said. He added they took ash for laboratory tests to determine the presence of flammable liquid.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Lenten caravan launched

CALAMBA CITY—Militant groups in Southern Tagalog spearheaded by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Movement for the Advancement of Nationalism, an anti-US troop coalition, launched a Lenten people's caravan on Monday. Dubbed "Kalbaryo ng Bayan sa Panahon ng Imperyong Amerikano," this Lenten observance by the group on March 24 to 27 started in Lucena City and Antipolo City with a symbolic protest in front of the churches of the two cities in time for Palm Sunday. The caravan's highlight will be the presentation of a passion play, which depicts the sufferings of Filipinos.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Grass fires hit Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Four grass fires, traced to indiscriminately thrown lit cigarette butts, hit several commercial areas in this economic zone on Monday. The first fire, which occurred at 8 a.m., burned a barren grassy field between the old PX shop and the duty-free store Sports Unlimited warehouse. At past noon, two grass fires gutted the Lilly Hill, a forested area along the duty-free store lane of Claro M. Recto Avenue, and the nearby Air Force City's wet market. At 3 p.m., another fire struck the housing area of the Ninoy Aquino Avenue, destroying a warehouse of the Clark Development Corp. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Easter egg hunt in Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Subic Bay Freeport Zone is gearing for the biggest Easter egg hunt in the country when it hides 3,650 eggs on March 31. Jose Macario de Leon, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority planning and development chair, said the 3,650 eggs, with corresponding prizes, represent the number of days the freeport had existed since it was established in March 1992. Festival organizers said the egg hunt would be held in an eight-hectare area around the central business district here.

Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Death of killer probed

BATANGAS CITY—A police team has been sent to Samar to investigate the death of former policeman Juancho Tolentino, the suspect in the murder of Lian town Mayor Sixto "Baby" Vergara. Vergara was found dead on March 16 inside a hut in Barangay 9, Catbalogan, Samar, with a bullet in his head, after almost a month of hiding from the police, police said. Police also found a .45 cal., a cellular phone, two spent bullets, a wallet and two residence certificates in Tolentino's hut. *Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Soldier slain in fight

MATI, Davao Oriental—An Army sergeant was killed when he tried to pacify two warring groups of teenagers inside a beerhouse here on Friday night. The victim was identified as Sgt. Romeo Naungayan, a member of the 8th Special Forces. The five arrested suspects said they mistook the victim for taking sides with the other camp when he tried to stop the fight. Naungayan suffered several stab wounds in the body.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Waste handling firm faces charges for defying DENR

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—A waste management firm in Bulacan, which residents want out of their midst, had been recalcitrant, evident in two notices of violations and several orders that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had issued since last year.

Records from the regional DENR Environmental Management Bureau here showed that the Enviro-Means Industry Inc. (EMII) started building its wastewater treatment facility in Barangay Sipat, Plaridel, Bulacan, without a permit.

Also without permits, the company transported hazardous wastes, improperly stored and improperly labeled these in Sipat and in a compound it also owns in Barangay Patubig in Marilao, Bulacan, records showed.

The EMB regional office monitored the first violation on Sept. 12 last year or seven months after the DENR issued the EMII an environmental compliance certificate. The illegal construction violated one of the ECC conditions.

More violations

The second set of violations was discovered last Nov. 27.

According to EMB engineers, an ECC was "not a passport to operate."

Presidential Decree 984 (pollution control law) and Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990) required separate permits for every batch of wastes hauled, treated, stored and disposed of.

EMII, in its project brief, said its business entailed the "treatment of toxic and hazardous wastes both for solid and liquid wastes." From these industrial wastes, it seeks to recover products to sell for reuse.

Its ECC allows the company to treat and store 5,000 drums of liquid wastes and 500 tons of solid wastes between 2001 and 2005.

There were no available records on the volume of wastes stored at the Sipat and Patubig sites. But the Nov. 27 investigation reports said "huge volumes of hazardous wastes" included used oil, iron oxide, paint sludge and spent sulfuric acids.

Protests

Two months before Plaridel residents and Bayan Muna members stepped up protests against the toxic waste dumping, EMB Director Julian Amador, in a Jan. 29 letter, stopped the "processing of all applications for transport permits" for at least 45 client-companies of the EMII.

Most of EMII clients were transnational corporations, many of which were engaged in electronics.

In a memorandum last December, EMB Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio recommended the temporary suspension of the issuance of permits, saying that "we found that the storage is improper and storage area is inadequate."

"Considering the capacity of the facilities, it would take time before the company would be able to treat the hazardous wastes presently stored at the said sites," Claudio said.

Inspections

From two inspections in November and January, Amador noted that "hazardous wastes such as sludge, used oil and contaminated containers are stored in EMII facilities" and ordered that these be processed prior to any hauling.

Amador reiterated that transporting hazardous wastes without permit was a violation of RA 6969.

For its violations, the EMII was fined P160,000. It was ordered to submit an inventory of hazardous wastes, an interim management plan, and a management plan for spillage into soil.

It was also ordered to present an abandonment plan for its Marilao plant and to put up an environmental guarantee fund for the cleanup.

However, engineers noted that the violations went on.

In an inspection on Monday, the same day that the INQUIRER published a story on the complaints of residents against the EMII, the EMB found that "wastes were freshly delivered" to the Sipat site.

Few facilities

While it had a growing number of clients, the EMII, as of Monday, only had a warehouse and a distillation facility for used oil, EMB engineers told the INQUIRER.

Its wastewater treatment plant and sludge cellar were already under construction although they still had no permit, the engineers said.

EMII officials could not be reached for comments on what hindered the company from fulfilling its commitment to improve its facilities, including that in Sipat. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Now in its
6th year
THE
GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO
ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS 1996

OVER P5 MILLION WORTH OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE ACCOUNTANCY COURSE OFFERED AT THE TIP

WHO MAY APPLY

OPEN TO BONAFIDE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH 83% OR ABOVE GENERAL AVERAGE IN 4TH YEAR H.S. OR 83% OR ABOVE FINAL GRADE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING. SUBJECTS: MATH IV, SCIENCE IV, OR ENGLISH IV.

WHAT ARE THE GRANTS

1ST PLACER
GRANTEE GETS A TOTAL OUTLAY OF P150,000 FOR THE ACCOUNTANCY COURSE AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE PHILIPPINES:
- P60,000 TO COVER FORTY (40) MONTHLY STIPENDS (P1,500 PER MONTH) THROUGH FOUR (4) SCHOOL YEARS TO COVER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.
- P90,000 TO COVER TUITION AND OTHER BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES THROUGHOUT THE COURSE.

2ND TO 51ST PLACERS
TOTAL OUTLAY OF P4.5M FOR THE FIFTY (50) SCHOLARS TO COVER TUITION AND OTHER BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES THROUGHOUT THE COURSE IN ACCOUNTANCY AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

52ND TO 131ST PLACERS
OUTLAY OF P9,900 FOR EACH OF THE EIGHTY (80) SCHOLARS TO COVER TUITION AND OTHER BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR ONE (1) SEMESTER IN ACCOUNTANCY AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

WHERE TO FILE APPLICATION
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, TIP
363 P. CASAL ST., QUIAPO, MANILA
OR
938 AURORA BLVD., CUBAO, QC

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING THEIR FORM 138 AND 2 COPIES OF 2X2 ID PICTURE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2002

WHEN TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION
SCHEDULE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS IN MATH AND ENGLISH IS SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002, 9:00 TO 11:00 AM AT TIP MANILA/QC

OTHER ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTS

VALEDICTORIANS
FREE TUITION AND BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR 2 SEMESTERS (EXCLUDING DEVELOPMENT FEE, COMPUTER FEE AND ID FEE),
PLUS A STIPEND OF P1,000 PER SEMESTER FOR TWO (2) SEMESTERS.

SALUTATORIANS
FREE TUITION AND BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR 2 SEMESTERS (EXCLUDING DEVELOPMENT FEE, COMPUTER FEE AND ID FEE).
PLUS A STIPEND OF P1,000 FOR ONE (1) SEMESTER.

3RD TO 10TH RANKING H.S GRADUATES
FREE TUITION AND BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR ONE (1) SEMESTER (EXCLUDING DEVELOPMENT FEE, COMPUTER FEE AND ID FEE).

90% or above general average (4th Year H.S.) or 90% or above final grade in Math IV, English IV, or Science IV	Free tuition and basic miscellaneous fees for one (1) semester (excluding development fee, computer fee and ID fee).
85% - 89% general average or 85% to 89% final grade in Math IV, English IV, or Science IV	Free tuition fee for one (1) semester.
83% - 84% general average or 83% to 84% final grade in Math IV, English IV, or Science IV	80% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester
81% - 82% general average or 81% - 82% final grade in Math IV, English IV, or Science IV	60% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester
80% general average or 80% final grade in Math IV, English IV, or Science IV	50% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester

www.tip.edu.ph
ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
In constant redefinition of academic life

MANILA CAMPUSES
363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
Tels. 733-9117 / 734-3642

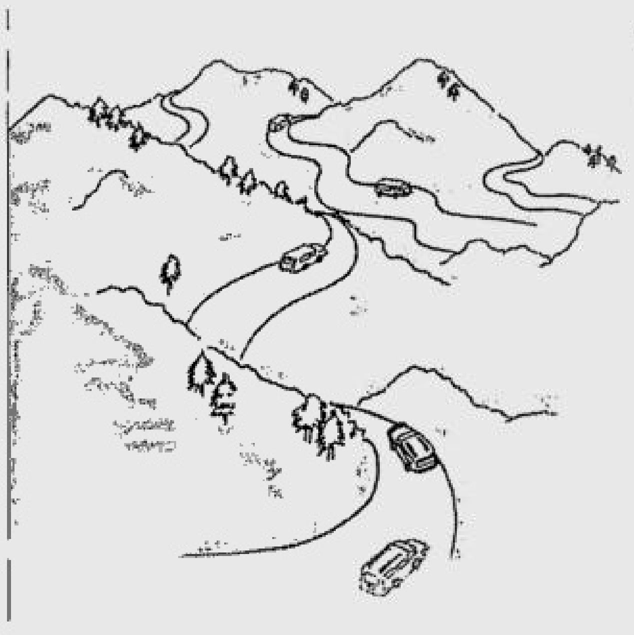
1338 Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila

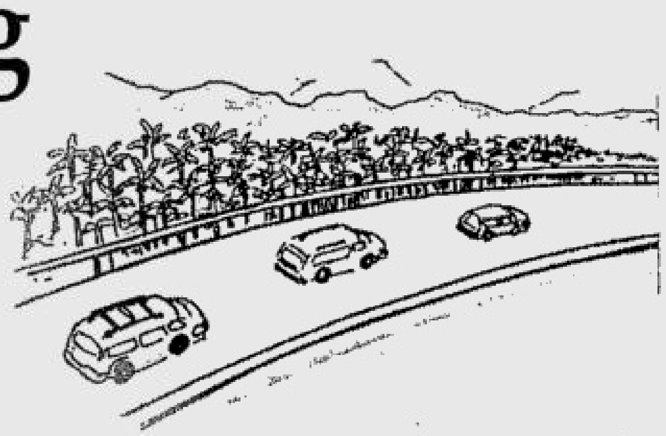
QUEZON CITY CAMPUS
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tels. 911-0148 / 912-1539

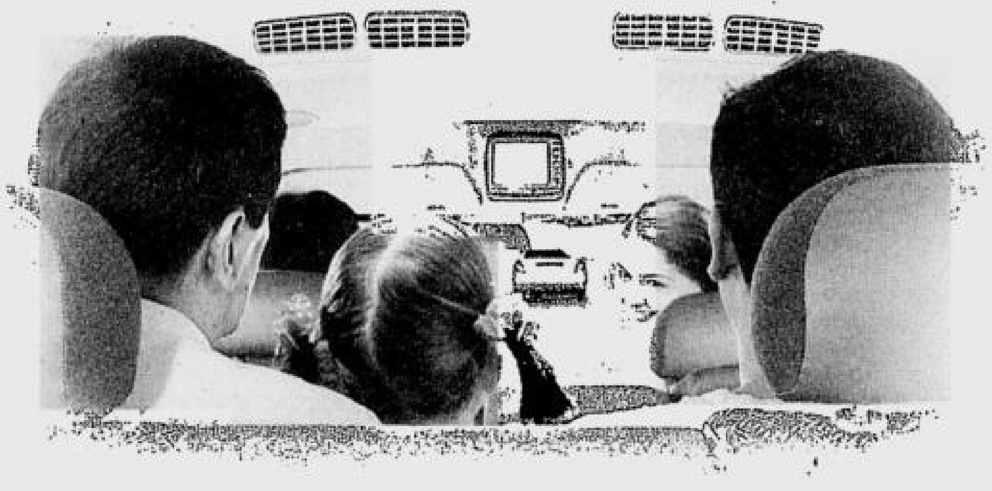
40 years of Excellence in Engineering Education

More for you from KIA

You'll find KIA Caring North and South this Holy Week.







Columbian Autocar Service Mobile
KIA
KIA 823

So go to your hometown or favorite vacation place in your car, van or pickup - and don't worry about mechanical problems, because help is on the way at these KIA Motorist Assistance stops:

NORTH:
Burnham Park,
Baguio City
SOUTH:
San Pablo City
at Shell Station II,
168 Brgy. San Ignacio,
Nat'l. Highway

N W E S

Look for the KIA Motorist Assistance teams along the way to help you enjoy your Holy Week holiday driving!

Mobile Service mechanics will be on hand from March 26, Holy Tuesday, to March 30, Black Saturday, ever alert to keep your KIA going!

SERVICE PRO KIA

A public service of KIA Motors and Columbian Autocar Corp.

KIA Cares.

Participating Dealers:

KIA LA UNION (AMIANAN AUTOCENTER)
National Highway, Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union 2500 Tels. (072) 700-8881/888-2607 **KIA Baguio:** 110 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City 2600 Tels. (074) 300-8861/444-3547 **KIA Laoag:** Bgry. 16 National Highway, Payas San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte 2901Tels. (077) 781-8881 to 82

KIA BATANGAS-LAGUNA
(BATANGAS-LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Pres. Laurel Highway Crossing, Sto. Tomas Batangas Tels. (043) 778-4214 to 17

Guingona rejects envoy's apology

From page A1

cept the note verbale containing the diplomatic protest filed against the Mexican government.

DFA Spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said Guingona went to Mexico not only as DFA Secretary but also as Vice President on behalf of Ms Macapagal.

"It was gracious of Ambassador Hubbard but this incident involved the DFA secretary and Vice President so it is just proper that similar sentiment be accorded by someone of equal stature as Guingona's. Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda would be acceptable at the minimum," Lecaros said.

Ebdalin said the DFA continues to protest the "unfair treatment" of Guingona by ordering the incoming Philippine ambassador to Mexico, Justo Oros, to remain in Los Angeles until further notice.

"Ambassador Oros was supposed to present his credentials to the Mexican government today but until an apology, from the Mexican Foreign Ministry comes, we will not let the ambassador go to Mexico," Ebdalin said.

Guingona was in Mexico from March 21 to 23 to attend the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development.

The walkout

Upon the delegations' arrival, the Mexican government hosted lunch for the dignitaries at the Centro de Arte de Monterey in State of Nuevo Leon.

A few hours before the luncheon meeting, Guingona had delivered a speech with its introduction in Spanish in deference to his hosts.

Thai PM intervenes

In a report, the Philippine Charge d'Affaires in Mexico City, Eduardo de Vega, said the incident was "so humiliating" that even Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who witnessed the incident, tried to intervene on behalf of Guingona and asked the organizers to let the Vice President stay.

According to De Vega, Guingona had arrived on time, presented his formal invitation and was led to Table No. 5 of the dining hall of the Centro de Arte de Monterey, where the luncheon for heads of states was held and hosted by the governor of the State of Nuevo Leon.

A few minutes later, De Vega said, Guingona was told that there had been a mistake and that his name was not on the guest list. Guingona decided to walk out. He immediately ordered Manila to file the diplomatic protest.

The same day as the luncheon incident, Guingona snubbed the state dinner hosted by Mexican President Vicente Fox.

Brunei supports RP

Also in protest for the "terrible discourtesy" inflicted on Guingona, the Thai and Brunei delegations chose not to attend the State Dinner.

Ms Ruth Guingona snubbed the function hosted by the Mexican First Lady for the visiting wives of the dignitaries the day after the incident.

A similar protest was made by the Cuban delegation for the Mexican hosts' alleged "shabby treatment" accorded to their President Fidel Castro.

Castro accused the Mexican hosts of requesting him and the Cuban delegation to leave the conference right after delivering his speech at the plenary in order to "lessen the discomfiture of US President George W. Bush and the European Union delegation.

The Cuban delegation said the shabby treatment was "very grave and unprecedented" De Vega said.

Gov't prejudging probe, says int'l peace mission

lations. She said these charges were "an insult" to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"If the US and Philippine troops are not doing anything wrong here in Basilan, they have nothing to fear," the delegates said.

"But they know that we have among us a number of experts in the processes and impact of US intervention, human rights law and some parliamentarians from other countries. Perhaps these are the reasons for their hesitation," they said.

The delegates decried Malacañang's response to their mission. "It (Malacañang's response) has been a mixture of trying to discredit our credentials, scaring us from coming to Basilan and prejudging the results of our investigation," they said.

"This is unfortunate. We really want its cooperation and we hope that this will be forthcoming during the rest of our stay in Basilan," they said.

Disturbing facts

"But in the little time we were there, we were nevertheless able to come up with disturbing facts, including a large number of people who had been detained without warrants for up to seven months, the holding of minors and a pregnant woman, and claims of being tortured and electrocuted by the Southern Command," the peace mission said.

"We need access to these prisoners as well as to local officials and the military command to be able to justify these facts," it said.

The statement bore the names of 11 of the 14 delegates, including Walden Bello of Focus on the Global South and of Akbayan; Matti Wuori, member of the European Parliament (Finland); Lee Rhiannon, member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales; Victoria Brittain of the Transnational Institute (UK); and, Marco Mezzera of Focus on the Global South (Italy).

Aijaz Ahmad of Jawaharlal University (India); Seiko Ohashi of the Asia Rural Alternatives (Japan); Earl Martin (US); Pierre Rousset, coordinator of the parliamentary groups (France); Roland Simbulan of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition; and Cora Fabros of the Gathering for Peace, also of the Philippines.

One delegate from Thailand, Sen. Kraisak Choonavan, was not able to come to the Philippines as scheduled.

The delegates said that they were perturbed that key witnesses did not appear in the scheduled congressional hearing of the human rights committee on Saturday and Sunday.

"The failure of these witnesses (to appear in the hearing), owing to fears for their lives, speaks volumes about the state of legal protection in Basilan. We will, however, press to speak to these witnesses through other means," they said.

BLOCKING force prevents "running priest," Fr. Robert Reyes, from reaching his finish line at the US Embassy to protest the Balikatan war exercises.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

The human rights committee of the House of Representatives, headed by Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, was supposed to hold a public hearing at the Basilan State University last Saturday, to hear the testimonies of the victims of human rights abuses.

Noynoy Aquino

Rosales was accompanied by Representatives Hussin Amin and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III in her trip to Basilan.

The peace mission was also set to hold a dialogue with residents of Barangay Tabuk in Isabela, Basilan, and with United States forces Sunday. Today, the delegates are scheduled to hold a dialogue with Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and residents of the town of Lamitan, and later, with the Christian Muslim-Alliance of Basilan and with anti-Balikatan members of the provincial board.

Akbayan questioned the local government's obstruction of the official investigation.

"The public hearing is an official initiative by the Congressional Committee on Human Rights to probe increasing reports of atrocities, harassment and detention of innocent civilians in the course of military operations against the Abu Sayyaf," said Joel Rocamora, president of Akbayan Citizens' Action Party.

In Lamitan, some members of the mission said they would seek international support, while others suggested the creation of an international body to monitor human rights abuses and possible escalation of military presence in the province.

Wuori, president of Finland's International Jurists, said the Basileños' conditions deserved international attention.

"And I'm determined to bring their problems and tragedies to my own country and report these abuses to the European Parliament, and at the same time elevate their concerns to the United Nations as well as to the International Jurists," Wuori told the INQUIRER.

Aijaz, an Indian Muslim author, said Catholic Church officials from the United States should visit Basilan and talk to the local people, "to make them feel that the military solution is not the ultimate action to solve banditry."

"Pressures from the religious communities worldwide should be emphasized here because no amount of military weapons could solve the problem. Inter-religious dialogue and their mere presence can also send signals that they are aware of the abuses committed against innocent civilians," Aijaz added.

Ohashi said she was determined to bring the Basileños' plight before Japanese government officials.

Complex problem

"This is not a simple problem marked with black and white. It's a very complex problem that requires international intervention, not through military action," Seiko said.

She said she was shocked to hear from residents stories about abuses perpetrated not only by bandits but also by military and local government officials.

"People are helpless, hopeless and they are living within a culture of violence, where they prefer to cover their eyes, ears and mouth due to extreme fear," Seiko said.

Rhiannon of the New South Wales said the abuses committed both by the military and the Abu Sayyaf bandits should be brought to the international scene to solicit support on how "to put a total stop to abuses."

Actual war games

She said the Balikatan games were not simple military routine exercises but were actual war games out to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf without considering its effects on the civilians.

"While Filipino officials claimed that it is pure routine exercises, people in the United States say a different thing," Rhiannon said.

But US military officers, Maj. Max Carpenter and Maj. Larry Redmon, said they never received reports of human rights violations committed by their Filipino counterparts.

"We love working with our counterparts, they are excellent soldiers," Redmon said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, in text messages sent to the INQUIRER, said Bello invited foreigners "with dubious official credentials to investigate Balikatan."

But Martin said: "What's in the credentials anyway when our concern is to give more focus on the people who are not only victims of human rights violations but victims of a cycle of violence reportedly coming from three angles, the Abu Sayyaf, the local government and military."

Rhiannon said Golez should stop his attacks on the delegates and instead focus his attention on how to solve the problems in Basilan.

Sincere

"Instead of attacking our foreign visitors who are sincere in trying to help the province, (presidential spokesperson) Bobby Tiglao and Mr. Golez should better come here in Basilan, stay for quite sometime and not do parachute visitations and stay in Zamboanga," Bello said.

Rocamora said that Akbayan respected the sentiments of the people of Basilan.

"We understand that many of them hate the Abu Sayyaf," Rocamora said in a statement.

But he pointed out that Akbayan had also condemned the Abu Sayyaf "numerous times and continues to denounce the horrible abuses it has committed against the people of Basilan and against its other victims."

"The Peace Mission, however, is about investigating the same abuses committed against civilians by our own soldiers," Rocamora said.

Golez hits 'foreign intervention'

By Carlito Pablo

NATIONAL Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday described as an act of "foreign intervention" the investigation by a 14-member international peace mission of the impact on civilians of the RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

Golez also questioned the loyalty of Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, who is one of three Filipinos involved in the mission composed of parliamentarians, politicians, human rights activists and academicians.

"Who empowered them to investigate the Philippine military? That is a shameful act of foreign intervention in our internal affairs," Golez said.

Golez described the foreign members of the mission as "people of doubtful credentials" and no more than "imported military bashers."

Ironically, anti-Balikatan quarters have decried the military exercise as American intervention into the country's affairs.

As to Rosales, Golez said her actions were "puzzling because she is a member of Congress and part of government."

"Instead of supporting the military, she has imported military bashers," Golez said.

Filipinos join 'Walk for Peace' in Jerusalem

From page A1

United Kingdom's Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, joined the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, and pilgrims in the hike down the Mount of Olives and up to the walled Old City. This year the procession was called a "Walk for Peace."

Many of the marchers were foreign workers from the Philippines and Romania. Sister Emilina Villegas, from the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Manila, said taking part in the procession was a dream come true.

"In the Philippines, Palm Sunday is very festive, and I wanted to experience it in Jerusalem like Jesus would have," she said. "I am also here to show solidarity with the people of this country who want peace."

Flag-waving Pinoys

Sister Emilina accompanied a group of women from the Philippines, wearing shirts emblazoned with "Jerusalem Palm Sunday 2002" and waving small replicas of the Philippine flag. They sang hymns and gospels songs to the sound of musical instruments as they walked down the hill.

The procession follows the traditional path taken by Jesus when he entered Jerusalem before his arrest, trial and crucifixion by the Roman rulers. In previous years thousands of Christian pilgrims and tourists have thronged the narrow cobbled streets, waving palm fronds and singing hymns.

Those who participated said they were not frightened.

"I have seen World War II. I am not scared," said Arthur Betheke, who came with his wife Mildred from Alaska for Easter.

"You cannot be faint-hearted. You have to stand up for what you believe in," he said.

Prayer for hope

Mary Asfour and her three children, who live in the Old City, complained that Christians from the West Bank could not attend this year because Israel has closed off the territory as part of its conflict with the Palestinians.

"I feel very sad. Every year we have many people here, but this year it is empty," she said, "but we had to come to pray for hope and peace in our country."

At the end of the procession, Archbishop Carey, who is on a short pilgrimage to the Holy Land, spoke to the small crowd gathered at St. Anne's Church, just inside the Old City walls.

"I have seen something of the great difficulties that people suffer in the Holy Land and each one in our hearts longs for peace," he said. "Nothing is gained by the bullet or by violence.

"Next week when we celebrate the resurrection, let's look forward in hope." *AP*

'I still carry the raw wounds from the bloody purges'

From page A1

the case in the region of my deployment. With reluctance because, you in the media, just want a story for the voyeuristic public. You, I salute as a crusading journalist, that's why your questions deserve answers, that's why you demand answers and wag your finger at all of us.

But this story will be a Pandora's box that will fuel speculations and disjointed judgments. It's most unfair even to the victims themselves. I'd rather have "to suffer thy comrades." But a book has to be written. (Purge survivor Francis Robert Garcia recently wrote the book "To Suffer Thy Comrades" where he presents and analyzes the gory details of the bloody purge.)

How it started

Yes, I was one of those given the doleful task of helping process the victims—those whom we could reach—for healing. I had to summon all my strength for that.

But you want to know where it all started, how it all began for me. . . many years ago.

It did not happen overnight. There was always a strong sense of mission in me. As a student, I was involved in parish apostolates. As a *kolehiyala* I'd often go down filthy slum alleys to visit a consumptive woman with a lovely name, Maya Montevirgen. My family was very close to the farmers who worked in our fields.

I was not yet a full-fledged nun when the First Quarter Storm (FQS) broke out. The conventual strictures made us keep our distance from the drama unfolding in the streets. One day the newspapers had this front-page photo of a student demonstrator hit by a bomb. His brains were out. I cried. A sister huddled with me asked, why are we within these walls while teenagers are being martyred in the streets? We were not born religious, we were born Filipinos, she said. I never forgot that.

My first assignment as a nun was in Central Luzon. I often brought my students to the barrios. We would sleep under the stars, we learned from farmers. My students began to see things from the viewpoint of *Nanay* Saning, *Ditse* Nita, *Lolo* Ambo. My own class standpoint also started to shift.

I mixed the classics with current literature. I'd throw magazines on the floor and my students would go into lively workshops. Does the story we are tackling speak of life? Whose interest does it serve? I was moving from social conscience to consciousness. I taught history, literature, socio-economics, creative a journalistic writing and, of course, religion—all in a new light.

Ironically, (it was) at a summer course in Ateneo (where) someone passed on to me Mao's Talks at the Yenan Forum that I first met Mao ZeDong. I pored over it in the solitude of my room. But please, Mao had nothing to do with the raising of my consciousness.

Power of media

It was mostly the media that got to me. I realized how powerful the media was. Over the radio there were progressive broadcasters and thought-provoking debates among students of FQS vintage. I absorbed all these. There were also lots of crudely mimeographed material circulating. Together with my fellow nuns from my order and other congregations, we would multiply and pass on literature of the "alternative press." My radicalization began.

One of my students left with me her books, among which was Amado Guerrero's "Philippine Society and Revolution" which I found to be an incisive analysis of our society. It was written from the standpoint of the toiling Filipino masses.

The turning point soon came. Through the media and the "alternative press" I learned more about the revolutionary movement. I saw the correctness of its response to massive poverty, exploitation, institutionalized violence done to the people. Given the situation, I felt that as a woman religious, I should join those who represent a humble, "compassioning," "backstage" Church presence in the radical mass movements. (Sigh) Sorry, a mouthful . . . Bear with it.

Trouble was, the likes of Joma Sison, the KMs, SDKs et al wrote off the entire Church sector then as clerico-fascists. Besides I knew no one to turn to for advice, guidance. In 1971, some of us nuns sometimes joined rallies that converged at Plaza Miranda. But we never got to Plaza Miranda, no permission. We joined the moderates that stayed in front of the Agrifina Circle because they were the people we knew.

Martial law

Ironically, it was the declaration of martial law that provoked me to look for the revolutionaries. Nobody sat down with me to convince me. I searched on my own. In 1975, our convent strictures had relaxed very much. Officially we could join the support groups for workers, farmers, urban poor, victims of human rights violations. Unknown to me, some people were eyeing me for further discussions but did not know how to make the first approach.

It was still in the first half of the 1970s that I first encountered the Church Underground—the Christians for National Liberation. This, too, was and is ecumenical. Later on, I got to know (Communist) Party and (National Democratic Front) cadres, now-you-see-them-now-you-don't (types). The CNL was legal before martial law. Then Marcos illegalized it. I was told that the CNL temporarily dissolved itself as a form of tactical retreat. But the Samar chapter refused to be dissolved. Two members told me. These were the first ones I met, in their own turf. But I was not in Samar just to meet up with them.

There were many occasions when I'd cross paths or rub elbows with party cadres or cadres of the various NDF organizations. For one reason or another, they'd discreetly entrust to me necessary information on their status. They knew I wouldn't betray the secret. It's not that there was anything special about me.

I was fully aware that (CNL) was Party-led, as all NDF organizations are. That's frankly told to new recruits. When a candidate member gets initiated into CNL he or she is told that as an organization it is given strategic guidance by the CPP. That's different from being communist-driven. Guidance.

I was aware (that radical mass movements were propelled by ideology). But I also knew that a large part of it was not; this was spontaneous. Naturally the revolutionary underground would sooner or later harvest from the spontaneous mass movements. That was what so many of our sisters back home feared, that we might get swallowed up, or that we'd be used. They don't have that fear now. I was still a "political virgin," yet I saw that this kind of massive social movements could not possibly march on with such sure steps without a core or backbone.

(When I went underground, my first task) was comprehensive "white area" work under a guerilla front that spanned several provinces astride two geographically extensive regions. It was very risky work because I often had to surface "above ground" with my unit fanning out in different directions where we were most vulnerable to the (Armed Forces of the Philippines units) and their local intelligence assets. Just as often, I had to go meet with CPP and (New People's Army) cadres of the region in their mobile bases. Many times we would outwit the government military when leading regional cadres needed to feel the pulse of the rank and file in the urban centers.

In a next wave of reorganization, as a result of overall progress, my committee went up and down highways and byways of two regions, our operations weaving through several guerilla fronts. After that I was transferred to a different territorial base. The work just kept growing more complex, (the) scale of responsibility more and more extensive. It gave me the capacity to see the total picture of the region.

I was entrusted with a leadership function I never dreamt I'd have. I mention all these to let you know that there is much leeway for the likes of me in the selection of leaders. It did not matter that I was a woman religious. I was given the responsibility because of what I was capable of. I was not there to represent CNL. I was there as me. (Laughs) My Sisters sensed I had some key position. I never confirmed nor denied it.

But, no, I don't even know how to fire the simplest gun. It's not for me to take up arms or even to get indirectly involved in military maneuvers. It's the party cadres who direct military strategy hands-on. At an ambush they're side by side with the Red Fighters.

Vocation within a vocation

I never thought of myself as a patriot. Some of the sisters used to say it was something like a vocation within a vocation. One thing certain—I could not function as a religious in the guerilla zones under the circumstances. I mean the standard way: catechesis, bring in Eucharist and sacraments, BEC (Basic Ecclesial Community). Proclamation of the Word, yes, possible.

Today it's different. Where I was then, I just had to accept that my being a nun was unrecognized by the people. If I had projected my image as religious they would have smiled and smiled at me, and that's it. They felt the Church was alien to them. But I meant a lot to them as *kasama* (comrade). Unless this seedling nun falls into the underground and dies to her notion of being a nun . . . that's *kenosis*, the self-emptying of Christ.

I've always maintained that there had to be some people in the churches who can experiment and bring about what is called frontier mission. You break through boundaries to extend frontiers. You break through what was impossible, like Christ made that death-resurrection breakthrough. ***(Tomorrow: Life in the underground)***

MINDANAO INTO MORE PERIL IF CEMENT INDUSTRY COLLAPSES

WHATEVER THE SUCCESS of the all-out drive of the government against terrorism in Mindanao, even with the help of the American troops, may just have been negated with one cold, indifferent and totally callous position made recently by the Tariff Commission that could lead to the collapse of one of the few remaining industries of Mindanao – the cement industry.

The local cement industry is essential to Mindanao. It has uplifted our general standard of living through direct employment, increase in local revenue and taxes, and the creation of allied businesses and economic opportunities. The continued presence of the local cement manufacturing industry continues to give hope to our people that their aspiration for economic development and ultimately, genuine peace and order, can be realized.

Mindanao has, however, been the hardest hit by the flood of cement imports because it is close to the main source of imported cement, Sulawesi, Indonesia. Indonesian cement has been swamping the ports and markets of Davao City, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga, severely undermining the viability of the cement plants operating in Mindanao. Last year, in one day, there were 3 ships lining the Davao port unloading one million bags of Indonesian cement.

While admitting a "recent, sudden and sharp" surge in cement imports, the TC has recommended the denial of the just petition of the local cement industry for safeguards under the Safeguard Measures Act. It even had the temerity to base its recommendation on the baseless conclusion that municipalities and communities hosting cement plants will benefit from the denial of tariff protection to the cement industry! All the letters we have filed with the TC emphasized the serious injury our communities will suffer if no safeguards are imposed.

If the TC recommendation is not reversed by DTI, such an outrageous position could lead to the uncontrollable flood of cement imports that would result in the closure of plants and kilns. If this happens, we, especially our constituents and communities, will all suffer gravely. We have already lost our steel and tire industries. Losing the cement industry will be an economic death from which we cannot recover. **This may be the last straw that will break all of us.**

For we all know that poverty is the root cause of unrest, rebellion and even acts of terrorism. To push our people to poverty, by depriving them of their jobs, economic opportunities and one of their last remaining hopes for a better life, is to push them to unrest.

WE ARE THEREFORE imploring DTI Secretary Mar Roxas, and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, to act decisively against this traitorous act of a minor Commission that openly admits and takes pride in not having the public interest at heart. We appeal to you to reverse and scrap the recommendation made by the Tariff Commission, not only to save the jobs and livelihood of thousands of Mindanaons, or to save the cement industry – but to preserve and advance the initiatives toward peace and progress in Mindanao.

Madame President, *tabangi intawon ang imong mga kaigsoonan sa Mindanao.*

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: **Rep. Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles,** 1st Dist., Lanao del Norte; **Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo,** 2nd Dist., Lanao del Norte; **Rep. Augusto H. Baculio,** 2nd Dist., Misamis Oriental; **Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula,** Lone Dist., Cagayan de Oro City; **Rep. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri,** 3rd Dist., Bukidnon

GOVERNORS: **Gov. Antonio P. Calingin, Vice Gov. J. Miguel C. de Jesus,** Misamis Oriental; **Gov. Imelda Q. Dimaporo, Vice Gov. Timoteo D. Dacalos,** Lanao del Norte; **Gov. Jose Ma. Zubiri,** Bukidnon; **Gov. Daisy Avance Fuentes,** South Cotabato;

MISAMIS ORIENTAL BOARD: **Oliver S. Actub, Pepito W. Gambe, Francisco G. Bade, Norris C. Babiera, Alejo P. Olano Jr., Arsenio S. Kho Jr., Henry Clyde C. Abbot, Johnny L. Motoomull Jr., Cancio P. Guibone, Oscar P. Musni, Lorimer B. Calingin, Herohito V. Tan, Edmundo IG. A. Moreno Jr.**

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: **Mayor Vicente Emano, Vice Mayor Elizaga**

DAVAO ORIENTAL: **Francisco Rabat, Mayor, Mati; Pascual Cabingatan, Chair, Mati Municipal Coalition Council; Gerardo Cabilan, Barangay Chairman**

ILIGAN CITY: **Mayor Franklin Quijano, Vice Mayor Lawrence Cruz, Councilors Ariel Anghay, Wilfredo Bacareza, Bienvenido Badelles, Alfredo Busico, Leobert Pairat, Providencio Abragan, Rolando Espina, Emanuel Engracia, Orlando Maglinao, Esperidion Sagrado, Antonio Palafox;** School Principals **Racquel Cortes, Carmelita Rosal; Ernesto Perez, Brgy. Capt. Mauro Bulawin**

LUGAIT, MISAMIS ORIENTAL: **Mayor Wellie Lim, Vice Mayor Ignacio Pabillar, Councilors Patricio Hataas, Warbulga Sacala, Ernesto Augosto, Henry Yee, Bruce Colao, Renato Yanez, Emmanuel Yana, Renerio Perez, Patricio Parami, Jr. Rotelio Ubagan; Barangay Captains Rotelio Ubagan, Monico Atienda, Bienvenido Tapasao, Alberto Megrino, Orlando Sarsaba, Julieta Tagurmacon, Rogelio Mangubat, Denis Yurong; School Principals Pedro Montejo, Teotimo Beringuel; Rev. Fr. Vicente Cervantes,** Lugait Parish Priest; **Oliver Arizo,** CVO Federation president

MISAMIS ORIENTAL MAYORS AND VICE MAYORS: **Mayor Alvin Giovanni Labis, Vice Mayor Armando Elarmo,** Alubijid; **Mayor Felix Borromeo, Vice Mayor Alexis Quina,** Balingasag; **Mayor Cresencio Ty, Vice Mayor Melchor de la Cruz,** Binuangan; **Mayor Paul Douglas Calingin, Vice Mayor Lorenzo Ong.** Claveria; **Mayor Emelita Almirante, Vice Mayor Teodulo Bombeo,** El Salvador; **Mayor Mary Jean Ajonan, Vice Mayor Emmanuel Mugot,** Gitagum; **Mayor Enerito Acain V, Vice Mayor Manuel Echavez,** Intao; **Mayor Huberto Paurom, Vice Mayor Juan Po,** Jasaan; **Mayor Clint Jude Puertas, Vice Mayor Alejo Salvani Jr,** Lagonglong; **Mayor Jose Elcid Lacida, Vice Mayor Imelda Talan,** Magsayay; **Mayor Lilith Jabla, Vice Mayor Roberto Lagrosas,** Manticao; **Mayor Jesus Gala, Vice Mayor Zosimo Pupos,** Medina; **Mayor Dennis Roa, Vice Mayor Dan Bombeo,** Naawan; **Mayor Dixon Yasay, Vice Mayor Jeaneth Serina,** Opol; **Mayor Vevencia Capistrano, Vice Mayor Reynaldo Rapisura,** Salay; **Mayor Yevgeny Vicente Emano, Vice Mayor Ma. Venci Sanchez,** Tagoloan; **Mayor Rommel Maslog, Vice Mayor Napoloen Talines,** Talisayan; **Mayor Julio Uy, Vice Mayor Bienvenido Valcurza,** Villanueva;

ILIGAN BAY CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES: **Medardo Germano,** President; **Zita Diez,** Vice President; **Edgard Pagaling,** Secretary/Treasurer; **Edna Legaspi,** PIO; **Marcelo Salazar, Bobby Sajonia, Bienvenido Badelles, Pascual Austria, Ralph Casino, Sergio Simbajon Jr., Tolentino Lapasaran,** Directors;

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: **Engr. Valeriano Mag-usara,** PICE President; **Engr. Pepe Delicana,** PICHE President; **Engr. Rolando Bait,** IIEE President; **Engr. Bob Salarza,** PSME President; **Sotero Trinidad,** PICPA President; **Fem Flores,** Iligan Habitat for Humanities; **Engr. Bill Caballo,** Chamber of Commerce and Industries; **Engr. Rodrigo Decierdo,** Kiwanis Int'l Division Lt. Governor

Bryant nails clutch baskets as Lakers nip Kings

SACRAMENTO, California—The Los Angeles Lakers sent out a huge message to their title-chasing rivals with a nail-biting 97-96 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Sunday.

Kobe Bryant led the way for the reigning NBA champions with two clutch baskets down the stretch after team mate Shaquille O'Neal fouled out and Sacramento's Chris Webber missed a potential game-winning shot.

Bryant scored 29 points as he picked up the slack for O'Neal, who had 21 points but was limited to nine shots by a collapsing defense and 36 minutes by foul trouble.

He took over the offense after O'Neal fouled out with 1:19 left. Vlade Divac made 1-of-2 from the line, pulling the Kings into a 93-93 tie.

On the next possession, Bryant spun left away from Doug Christie and flipped in a layup, giving the Lakers the lead for good with 1:06 to go.

Christie made 1-of-2 from the line before Bryant struck again. This time, he spun right and drilled a fadeaway 18-footer for a 97-94 lead with 36 seconds remaining.

Webber threw in a jump hook with 29 seconds left and the Kings forced a shot-clock violation, getting back the ball for a final possession. They went on the low right block to Webber, whose turnaround 10-footer was challenged by Robert Horry and bounced off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

It was a big statement by the two-time defending champion Lakers, who remain one-half game behind the league-leading Kings atop the Pacific Division.

But they took a 2-1 lead in the season series and won at Arco Arena, where the Kings were 30-3 and had an aura of invincibility.

Even Webber admitted his team had no chance of beating Los Angeles in the playoffs without the home-court advantage.

The teams meet again at the Staples Center on April 18, the last night of season.

OTHER RESULTS: Detroit 109, Boston 101; Toronto 92, Washington 91; Charlotte 99, Indiana 84; Milwaukee 110, Orlando 85; Philadelphia 90, New York 82; New Jersey 116, Atlanta 102; Houston 116, Golden State 104.

BRYANT

11 named to Hall of Fame

ELEVEN nominees seeking final slots in this year's third induction ceremony of the National Basketball Hall of Fame boast of impressive credentials worthy of nomination. They are (in alphabetical order): Manolet Araneta, Kurt Bachman, Charlie Badion, Loreto Carbonell, Gerry Cruz, Eddie Decena, Eddie Lim, Luis "Moro" Lorenzo, Alfonso "Boy" Marquez, Francisco Rabat and Mariano "Nano" Tolentino.

This list, according to Hall of Fame Steering Committee chair Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri, will be submitted to the Board of Trustees headed by Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., chair and vice chair, respectively, who will select the final winners. Previous Hall of Fame awardees were led by Carlos Loyzaga (1999) and Lauro Mumar (2000).

Herewith, in a nutshell, are the major credentials of some of the 11 nominees:

- MANOLET ARANETA. 1948 London Olympic Games, 12th place. Born on Dec. 8, 1926 in Iloilo to Manuel Araneta and Rosario Lédesma, Manolet was a very fast guard who earned the monicker "Twinkle Toes" during his heyday. While playing for Philippine Air Lines in the MICAA in the late 1940s, Manolet won the MVP award, receiving a Lord Elgin black dial wristwatch for the feat. Manolet earlier played for Far Eastern University where he was the team captain. From FEU, he transferred to La Salle which won the NCAA championship in 1947. He married Mila Cacho in 1950 when he was 24 years old. They have eight children.
- KURT BACHMAN. 1959 Chile World Basketball Championship, 8th place; 1960 Rome Olympics, 11th place; two gold medals in Asian Games (1958 Tokyo, 1962 Jakarta); and gold medal, 1960 Manila ABC. An only child, Kurt was born on July 18, 1936 to German national Kurt Bachman Sr. and Alice Streegan of Iloilo. He finished grade school at San Beda then transferred to La Salle. In 1955-56, he was voted MVP of NCAA junior and senior champion La Salle. Being the son of a German, Kurt's citizenship was always questioned whenever he was named to the Philippine selection. It was resolved when he chose to become a Filipino in 1954.

Golfest targets 375 Negros families

THE SWING to R.E.A.P. golf tournament, a fund-raising event for the benefit of 375 families in five Negros Occidental upland sitios and barangays, will be played on April 12 at Canlubang North.

This was bared yesterday by organizing committee chair Jerome Buhion and tournament committee chair Francisco "Toto" Bautista.

"Actually, this event is organized by the Building Families Community Foundation Inc. in cooperation with the Bread From Heaven Christian Fellowship," Buhion said.

The Building Families Community Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization, whose fundamental charter involves helping families, building communities and empowering the poor.

"Beneficiaries of the event are the sitios of Hiyang-hiyang and Guinaturan in Patag, Silay City, barangays Manghanoy and Cambagting in La Castellana and Sta. Fe in Bacolod City," Buhion said.

These five areas were initially chosen because of their poverty level. R.E.A.P. stands for Rural Empowerment and Assistance Program, which will help finance livelihood projects where the structure is one-half savings of the participants and another half assistance from the foundation.

Participants of the program are encouraged to save, employing the Rapid Savings Mobilization Technique, which will change the concept of savings using the formula: Income savings = expenses, then even the poorest people can save.

"Those interested in being a sponsor or joining this tournament may register by calling Monette Tumangan or Buhion at 807-56-89 and 807-73-74, or fax messages to 807-75-23," Bautista said.

Southwoods Masters Asia's best golf course

THE HONG KONG-based Asian Golf Monthly magazine has voted the Masters course of the Manila Southwoods one of the winners in the 2001 Asian Golf Monthly Awards.

Manila Southwoods golf director Jeric Hechanova received an email dated March 5 from Asian Golf Monthly publisher Spencer Robinson confirming the award for the Best Course in the Philippine category.

"The award was based on votes cast by Asian Golf Monthly readers around the Asia Pacific Region," Hechanova said.

Manila Southwoods, site of numerous Philippine Opens and the World Amateur in 1996, will be presented with a commemorative certificate.

Hechanova added that the Masters course, together with the Legends course (Manila Southwood's other all-weather championship course) are maintained in their best possible conditions all-year round, thereby, making it a perfect golfers' haven.

Full results of the Asian Golf Monthly Awards will be published in the April Chinese Edition and May English Edition of the magazine.

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFER

ScumBuster™

$100 * Cordless Wet Scrubber

- 3.6V submersible scrubber for wet cleaning
- Pads and brushes interchange easily
- Ideal for a variety of tough cleaning tasks both indoors and outdoors
- Powered by the Versapak™ interchangeable battery system
- Includes wide area brush, detail brush, pad, disc attachment, Versapak™ battery and charger

FREE!

VERSAPAK THE VERSATILE CORDLESS SYSTEM

VP250T Snakelight

P 2,599.75

Suggested Retail Price

Hurry! offer good while supply lasts!

From the World's No. 1 Power Tool Company...

BLACK&DECKER®

Available in all HANDYMAN, TRUE VALUE, The LANDMARK, HARDWARE DEPOT, HARDWARE EXCHANGE, FEDERAL HARDWARE, METRO GAISANO and INTERNATIONAL FREEPORT outlets nationwide.

High drama produces unlikely winner in Perks

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida — Craig Perks completed a day of high drama with an eagle-birdie-par finish Sunday to become the first player to earn his first victory at The Players Championship, regarded as golf's fifth major.

"You're unbelievable," defending champion Tiger Woods told him at the trophy presentation. "Absolutely unbelievable."

The 35-year-old from New Zealand closed with an even-par 72, a score that doesn't even begin to reflect his wild adventures on a firm, punishing TPC at Sawgrass.

"That was easiest 72 I ever shot in my life," Perks joked after his two-shot win over Stephen Ames.

He made only two pars over his final 14 holes, none after No. 10.

Perks easily could have seen his chances disappear when his approach from 199 yards on the par-5 16th came perilously close to the edge of the water. It hung up in the thick collar of rough just right of the green.

With his feet pressed close to the wooden frameboards, he holed the pitch from 6.3 meters (21 feet) for eagle to take a one-stroke lead.

He handled the next test with ease, finding land on the island-green 17th and holing a 8.4-meter (28-foot) birdie putt for a two-stroke lead over Ames, who closed with a 5-under 67 some three hours earlier.

Breathing room? Forget it.

Instead of playing it safe off the tee, Perks hit driver over the rough and behind the trees. He punched out to the fairway, then went over the green.

Needing to get up-and-down to avoid a playoff, Perks pitched in from 8.7 meters (29 feet). He raised his wedge as it trickled into the cup, then slammed his cap into the grass to celebrate.

Perks, who finished at 8-under 280, became the first player since Hal Sutton in 1983 to win The Players Championship in his first try. No one in the 28-year history of the tournament had ever made it his first victory.

Perks and Paulson both asked themselves Saturday night, "Why not us?"

The question after another day of drama and disaster was, "How did that happen?"

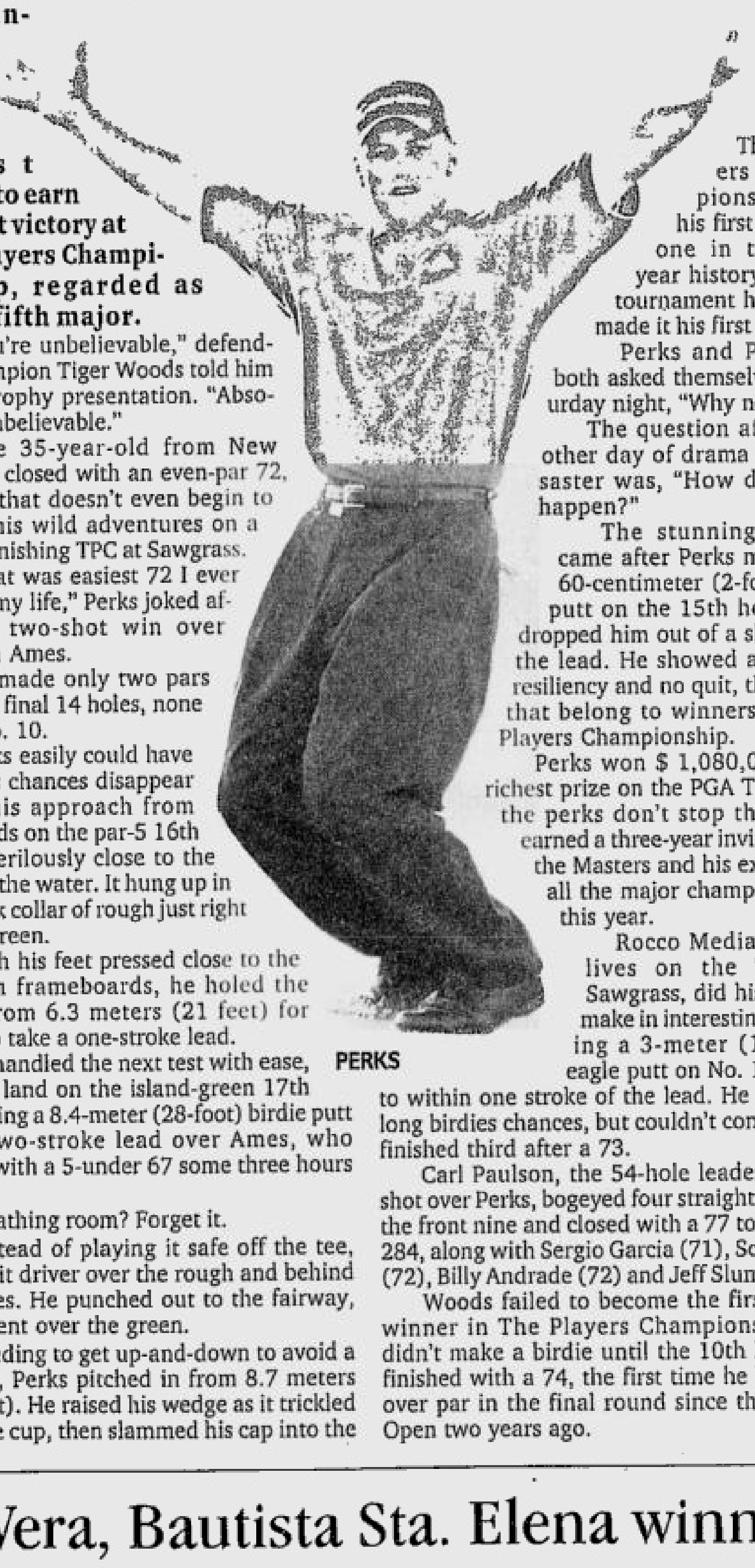
The stunning finish came after Perks missed a 60-centimeter (2-foot) par putt on the 15th hole that dropped him out of a share for the lead. He showed amazing resiliency and no quit, the traits that belong to winners of The Players Championship.

Perks won $ 1,080,000, the richest prize on the PGA Tour, but the perks don't stop there. He earned a three-year invitation to the Masters and his exempt at all the major championships this year.

Rocco Mediate, who lives on the TPC at Sawgrass, did his best to make in interesting by holing a 3-meter (10-foot) eagle putt on No. 16 to get to within one stroke of the lead. He had two long birdies chances, but couldn't convert and finished third after a 73.

Carl Paulson, the 54-hole leader by one shot over Perks, bogeyed four straight holes on the front nine and closed with a 77 to finish at 284, along with Sergio Garcia (71), Scott Hoch (72), Billy Andrade (72) and Jeff Sluman (74).

Woods failed to become the first repeat winner in The Players Championship. He didn't make a birdie until the 10th hole and finished with a 74, the first time he has been over par in the final round since the Nissan Open two years ago.



PERKS

Diaz beats Inkster

TUCSON, Arizona—Laura Diaz sank a 3-foot (0.9-meter) birdie putt on the last hole to cap a 4-under-par 68 and beat LPGA Hall of Famer Juli Inkster by a stroke Sunday in the Welch's-Circle K Classic.

Diaz, a fourth-year tour pro, earned her first professional title with a four-round total of 18-under 270. Inkster, who led after the second and third rounds, shot a 71 in the final round.

Diaz finished second four times and had eight other top 10 finishes last year—good enough to win $ 751,466. *AP*

Borrego wins

MADEIRA, Portugal—Diego Borrego of Spain captured the $485,000 Madeira Island Open by one shot Sunday, keeping his nerves steady in gusty, swirling conditions to win his second European Tour title. Borrego shot a 3-under-par 69 in the final round over the Santo da Serra course to finish 7-under 281 overall. *AP*

De Vera, Bautista Sta. Elena winners

FRED de Vera and guest partner Jimmy Bautista made a big charge from six points down in the final round to capture the Sta. Elena Cup even as Angelo Que edged bosom buddy Cookie LaO in the countback for the low gross award.

Playing in the Class C division, De Vera and Bautista mastered the sleek greens of the Sta. Elena course with a combined 83-point effort in their second round to win the top plum pulling away by four strokes with a 156 total.

The solid comeback of the winning pair denied halfway leader Alex Yaptangco and Ramon Veloso a wire-to-wire win as they managed only 73 in the final round for 152.

Que, fresh off his Philippine Open low amateur conquest, matched the 143 of LaO then banked on his eight birdies to emerge as the low gross winner of the event given strong backing by world cellular phone leader Nokia, International Container Terminal Services Inc., adidas Taylor Made, Royal Carribean Cruise and Northwest Airlines.

The much-improved Benedict Loa bagged the low net plum with his 90 points while the low gross team title went to former club champion Iggy Clavecilla and Mari Hechanova.

The division winners were Peter Chan and dick Tan Yu in Class A, Fely Lopez and Jan Golez in Class B and Suzing Pineda and Enzo Martinez in Class C.

Chan and Tan's net albatross won them the title after a countback with the pair of Loa and his partner Augusto Navarro. They had similar 151s after two days.

Lopez and Golez tallied a 147 to win by two over the all-female partnership of Ahbee Tayao and Beachie Abiera while Pineda and Martinez also prevailed by two points over Angie Co and Rommel Martinez with their 146.

Raffle items worth more than P2 million were given away to cap the sixth edition of the Sta. Elena Cup during the well-attended awards night where the Spirit of 67 band performed.

Milo BEST Center classes unfurl April 1

MILO BEST Center's summer volleyball classes will reel off on April 1 at Areneo Grade School covered courts and on April 3 at Arellano University Pasay, near the RMSC Sports Complex.

Basic, intermediate and advanced sessions will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. every Monday and Thursday at Ateneo up to April 25, while basic and intermediate clinics will be conducted from 8 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday at Arellano Pasay until April 27.

Veteran coaches, led by national mentor Florentino "Kid" Santos, will handle the sullener classes. He will be assisted by Rowena "Owee" Pena, Ariel Canlas, Vic Cruz and George Pascua.

Interested parties may register either at The BEST Center, 34 Scout Lozano corner Scout Reyes, Barangay Laging Handa, QC (tel. nos. 4116260 and 3723065/66), at Dansei Groom Shop/Sensei Salon, 5th floor, Holiday Inn Manila, UN Avenue (tel. no. 5258191) or the venue of their choice at least 30 minutes before the start of classes.

Registration fee is P1,500, including uniform T-shirt.

Milo BEST will also hold summer basketball lessons starting April 1 in nine venues—Ateneo College covered courts, Arellano University Pasig, Legarda and Pasay, Flos Carmeli Institution, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Jose Rizal University, Barangay BE multi-purpose gym and St. Benedict College.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Nasdaq 100 Open, Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA—The Players Championship, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2002 at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—ACC Tournament, Championship at 10 a.m. (r), 2002 Postseason NIT Tournament at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Eduardo Sumergido scored seven points to rule the Region 9 eliminations for the Shell National Youth Active chess championship in Zam-boanga City. Also today in 1996, Jose Luis 'Pepon' Marave timed 17:19.290 to capture the second leg of the 1996 Shell Super Karting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Coach K

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE EXCERPTS below were lifted from Grant Hill's introduction of the book Leading with The Heart by Mike Krzyzewski, coach of Duke University. The book was lent to me by Ford Motors' Sunny Medalla, a dear buddy of Toyota's Vince Socco. Students of both basketball and ***life***, take note.

"My first team meeting in the fall of 1990 was an awesome day. I remember being excited, anxious, and nervous when Coach K (Krzyzewski) walked in. He paused for a moment to make sure that we were all looking him straight in the eye. And the first thing he said was: 'We're going to win the national championship this year.'

"It was a remarkable statement for him to make because he had lost three starters from the previous year's team. And that team had suffered an embarrassing 30-point loss to UNLV in the national championship game.

"We did win the national championship that year, the first in Duke's history. And we won it the next year, too. As a matter of fact, in my four years playing for him, I participated in three Final Fours and three national championship games. More important, however, were the lessons I learned from Coack K about life and leadership. They include: setting the bar high so that you can strive to be the best you can be; the value and rewards of a hard-work ethic; building close relationships based on trust; setting shared goals; sacrificing; giving of yourself; winning with humility; losing with dignity; turning a negative into a positive; being a part of something bigger than yourself; enjoying the journey.

"By attending Duke University, I joined more than a basketball team. I became part of a legacy. In a coaching career that spans more than a quarter century, Coach K's achievements are extraordinary. Fifteen NCAA tournament bids and the highest winning percentage in NCAA tournament history. Eight Final Fours in 14 years. The only back-to-back national championships in the last 25 years. Six years as national Coach of the Year. Five-time ACC Coach of the Year. A career winning percentage of .717. An impeccable reputation for honesty and integrity that is unquestioned in the sports world. And thousands of friends.

"Coach K has shown he can win with a lot of talent—and he's shown he can win with a little bit of talent. He brings kids in from all around the country, from different cultures and different backgrounds. He teaches them to transcend their differences for a greater good. He helps them learn to get along together, to work as a team, to respect one another, to care for one another.

"I know. I was one of those kids.

"But the most important thing of all about Coach K is that he taught me principles and values that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Those principles and values transcend basketball. They can be a guide for success in whatever you do in life—whether it's running a big business, ministering to a church, coaching a sports team, or simply trying to achieve your dreams.

"I graduated years ago, but I'm closer with Coach K now than I was in college. Today, I'm proud to say we're good friends. And I know that's the case with a lot of his former players.

"When I look back on my time at Duke, I feel lucky to have played for him. I took it for granted then. I was young. I didn't realize what I had. But I appreciate it now. In fact, I appreciate it more and more as the years slip by."

Sports is life as life, in case you have forgotten, imitates sports.

Django prevails

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante won the Japan Open Sunday, routing Ralf Souquet of Germany, 9-0, in the finals of the 9-ball meet to finish on top of an international field of 400 pool pros drawn to Tokyo by the annual tournament.

Efren "Bata" Reyes finished tied at 3rd/4th place with Y. Itsuzaki of Japan. Souquet defeated Reyes 9-8, in the semifinals. Bustamante beat Itsuzaki, 8-6, in the other semis match.

Django won $12,000 and Bata $3,000.

Matchup of top seeds in focus

From page A18

The Jayhawks eliminated No. 2-seeded Oregon 104-86 to win the Midwest Regional, and the Terrapins held off No. 2 Connecticut 90-82 in the East.

No. 5 Indiana won the South on Saturday, topping Kent State 81-69, and No. 2 Oklahoma captured the West by advancing with a 81-75 victory over No. 12 Missouri.

The intrigue in the matchup of No. 1s begins with the coaches, both named Williams, both trying to win a first national championship.

Maryland's Gary Williams took the Terps to the Final Four a year ago before losing in the semifinals against Duke, which went on to win the championship.

Roy Williams has taken Kansas to two previous Final Fours, losing to eventual champion North Carolina in the 1993 semifinals, and to Duke in the 1991 championship game.

Both have seasoned, focused teams.

Kansas has the highest scoring team in the country and complements that with a strong inside game. Typical was the rout of overmatched Oregon.

Drew Gooden and Nick Collison each had double-doubles by early in the second half, and the Jayhawks outrebounded the Ducks 63-34.

Kansas had 26 offensive rebounds, leading to 31 second-chance points. ***AP***

Nissan revives RP Marathon run

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) is about ready to prove the performance and luxury of the All-New Nissan Exalta GS Superio on major Philippine roads by retracing the route of the 2nd and 3rd Philippine Marathon starting on April 5.

Kick-off point for this innovative and pioneering motoring effort is Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City.

The Exalta will be fired off at high noon after a two-hour media presentation, also at Eastwood.

Over the last two years, the Exalta has become a byword for luxury and innovation in SI cars.

But many don't realize that features for a comfortable ride and engine performance, as well as safety factors, are matched perfectly in the Exalta.

A team of fully tested marathoners, navigators and long distance drivers have been invited by NMPI to prove these effective features of the Exalta in the Nissan marathon run from April 5 to May 4.

Co-captains Willie Ingles and Andy Dysangco, who both were veterans of the two Nissan marathon runs in 1991 and 1995, will announce the team composition during the press launch on Monday.

Dysangco has been out of town for weeks marking the routes for the marathon in the Visayas and Mindanao while Ingles is out mapping the route in Northern Philippines. They are expected to be back after the Holy Week, ready for their final briefing with the marathon crew.

"NMPI is putting real money and precious time to prove the limits of the Exalta. We're giving the marathon team enough time to prepare, extend servicing, give technical support and parts back-up to test the Exalta and report to us other refinements we can make to produce an even better model," said Vir Diwa, NMPI vice president for sales and marketing.

The plan is for the Exalta to run non-stop for 30 days, with a goal of logging at least 30,600 kilometers in five rounds through the length of the Philippine archipelago.

This early, Caltex and Goodyear Tires are joining the expedition, two companies as dedicated as Nissan in providing comfort and convenience to car lovers.

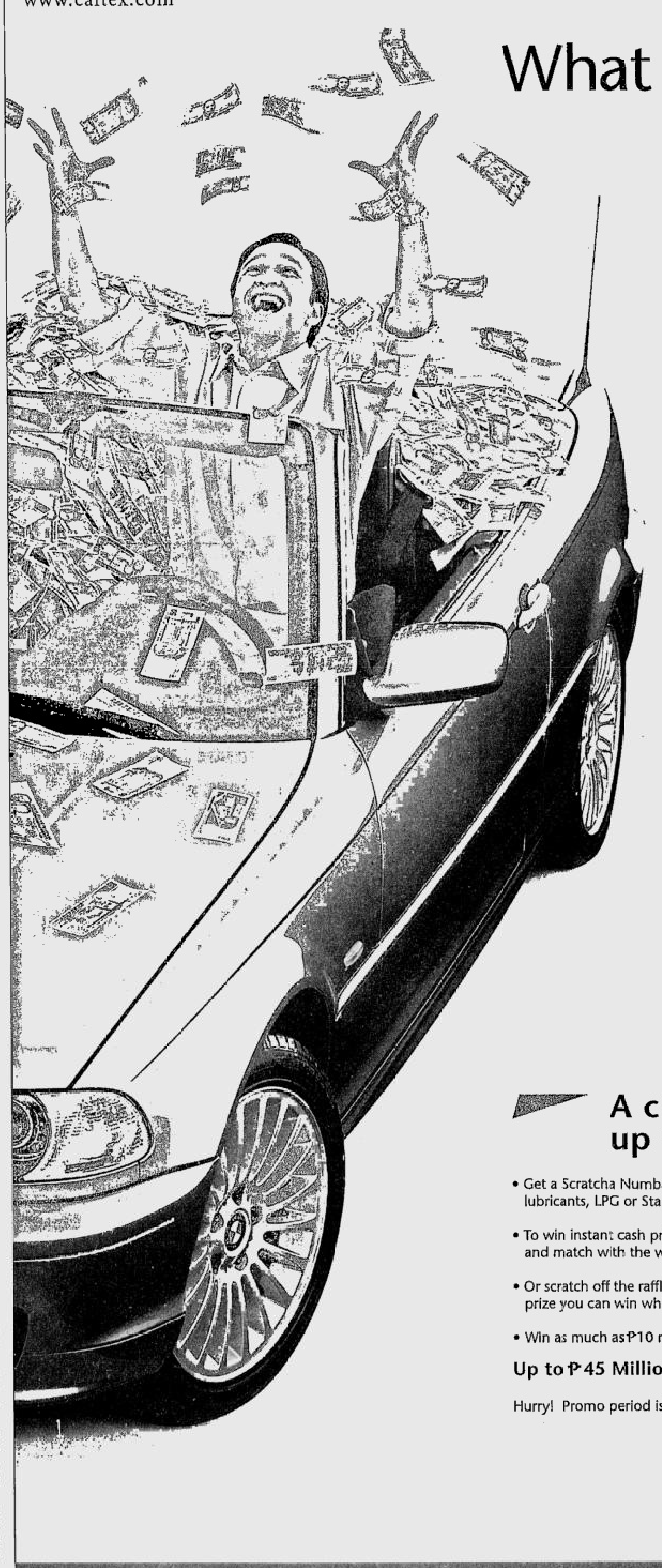
Caltex fields its Vortex Silver and Havoline oil for the entire run with help from professionally-trained mechanics providing back-up services along the routes of the Caltex Xpress Lube stations along the way.

Goodyear is supporting the team with both dry-weather and wet-weather Eagle Ventura tires for the use of the Exalta for confirmation later of their proper traction control on all road conditions.

While the team sees no constraint on power, tire sizes and weight limits, Ingles said that the team will have to come to terms with "weather conditions, crowd control, particularly on its arrival in major cities and close brushes with security problems."

A ChevronTexaco Company
www.caltex.com

What Drives You



A chance to win
up to ₱10 Million!

- Get a Scratcha Numba game card for a specified purchase of fuel, lubricants, LPG or Star Mart goodies.
- To win instant cash prizes, scratch off the 3 boxes on the scratch card and match with the weekly winning combinations.
- Or scratch off the raffle box in the same scratch card to reveal the cash prize you can win when you join the raffle draw.
- Win as much as ₱10 million in the June 30, 2002 grand draw!

Up to ₱45 Million at stake!

Hurry! Promo period is from March 15, 2002 to June 15, 2002.

SCRATCHA NUMBA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0245 Series of 2002.

What Drives You CALTEX

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Ethiopian makes history

DUBLIN, Ireland —Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia achieved history Sunday in the world Cross Country Championships, winning the 12-kilometer (7.5-mile) course at the tender age of 19 and becoming the first man to complete a double-gold performance. Bekele, who has been heralded as the natural successor to Ethiopian long-distance legend Haile Gebrselassie, strolled home in 34 minutes, 52 seconds, to become the youngest-ever winner. *AP*

Django Japan billiards champ; Bata 3rd /A17

KANSAS forward Nick Collison (left) and Oregon's Robert Johnson get tangled up under the basket in the first half of their NCAA Midwest Regional Final in Madison, Wisconsin, on Sunday. Kansas won, 104-86. AP

Maryland, Kansas join Final Four

SYRACUSE, New York —On a night when Maryland's senior stars led the way, struggling junior Steve Blake hit the shot that sealed a second straight trip to the Final Four.

The No. 1-seeded Terrapins beat second-seeded Connecticut 90-82 Sunday in an East Regional final where the lead swung back and forth for most of the final 13 minutes.

Maryland (30-4) will play another No. 1 seed, Kansas, on Saturday in Atlanta. The Jayhawks beat Oregon 104-86 in the Midwest Regional final.

Lonny Baxter had a season-high 29 points, and fellow senior Juan Dixon scored 27 for Maryland, which reached the 30-victory mark for the first time in school history.

"We have tough guys. We didn't think we would lose this game," Maryland coach Gary Williams said. "We're going back. We want to do something this year."

The frantic finish included seven lead changes and eight ties in the last dozen minutes.

But as the shot clock wound down in the final minute of the tight game, Blake sank a 3-pointer - his first points of the evening - to make it 86-80.

The Terrapins weren't challenged again.

"That shot was the biggest one I could hit for this team," said Blake, who had been banished to the bench by coach Gary Williams just minutes before his key bucket.

Maryland scored the final eight points of the first half to take a 44-37 lead - UConn's biggest deficit of the tourney to that juncture - but sophomore forward Caron Butler brought the Huskies (27-7) back.

He had 26 of his 32 points in the second half, most in a basket-for-basket run with the Terrapins which saw neither team lead by more than three points from the 14-minute mark until the final 36 seconds.

Baxter, the regional's Most Outstanding Player, was 7-for-12 from the field, 15-for-18 from the free throw line and grabbed nine rebounds. He had 24 points and 10 rebounds in the teams' first meeting this season, a 77-65 Maryland victory on Dec. 3. *AP*

Matchup of top seeds in focus

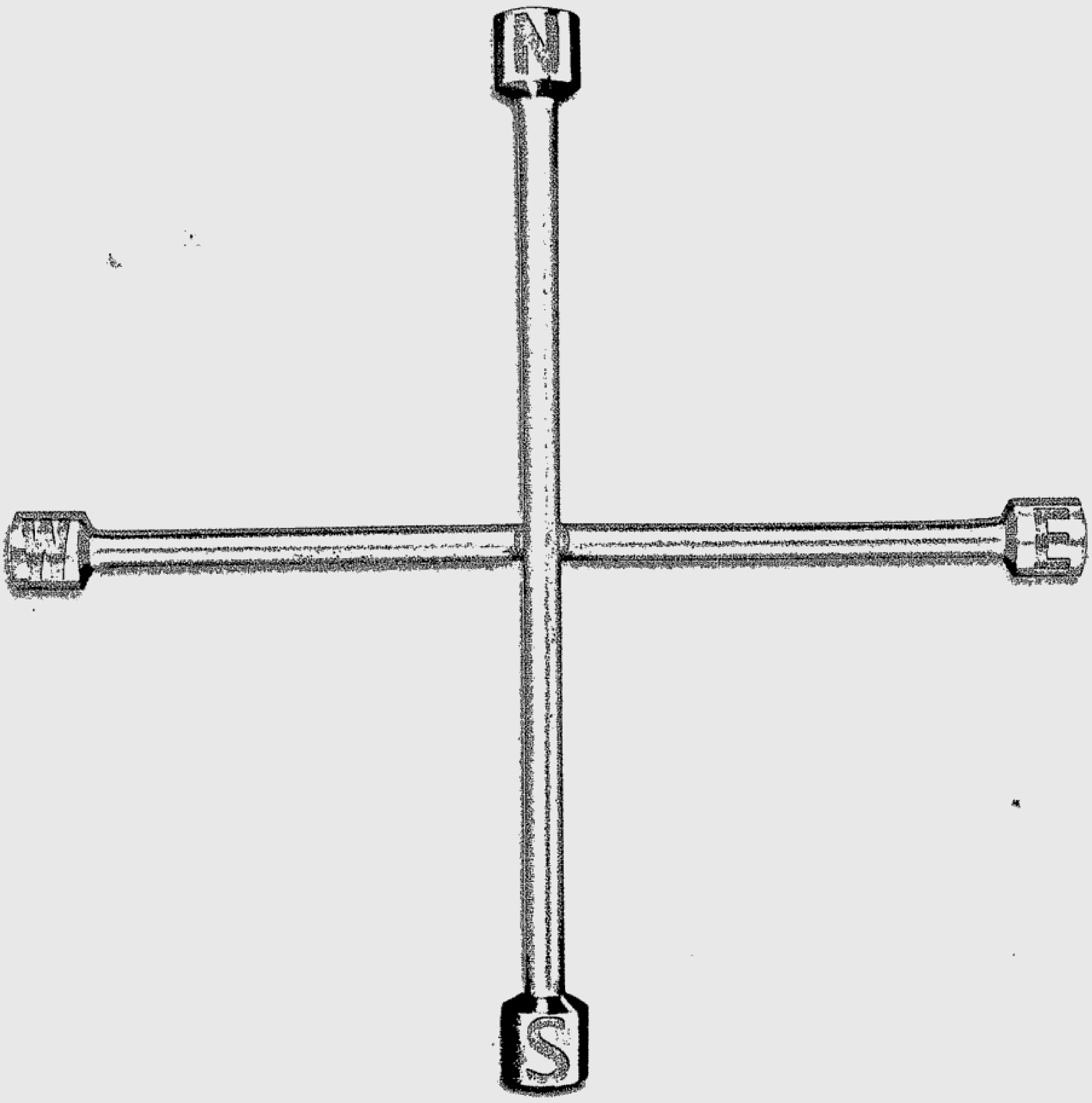
NEW YORK —If everything worked out according to the brackets designed by the NCAA basketball selection committee, there would be four top-seeded teams headed to next weekend's Final Four.

Sometimes it does, which is why Kansas and Maryland will meet in one national semifinal next Saturday at Atlanta.

Sometimes it doesn't, which is why Oklahoma and Indiana will play in the other.

No. 1-seeded Kansas and Maryland completed the Final Four Sunday.

MATCHUP/A17

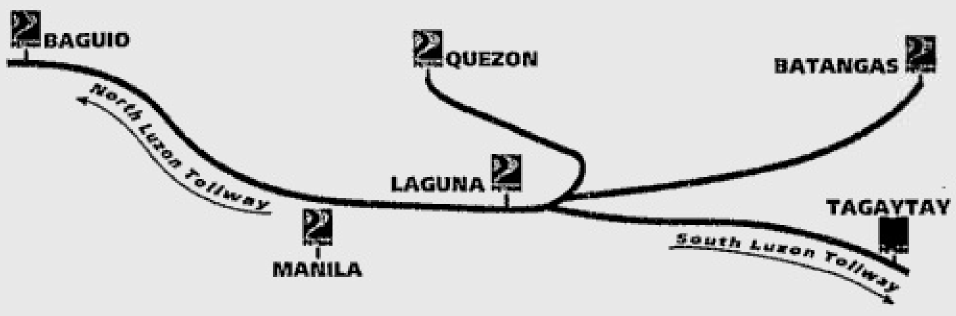


PETRON LAKBAY ALALAY 2002
Your friend on the Road

Lakbay Alalay now goes beyond North & South.

Originally along the North and South tollways, Petron Lakbay Alalay has expanded to include Baguio, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Tagaytay in its coverage area. The 16 year old program continues to provide towing, roving mechanics, first aid, clean restrooms, free drinking water and diaper change booths to Holy Week motorists. Just another way the pioneer of motorist assistance programs continues to blaze new trails to serve the public.

PETRON
Pusong Pinoy



37th anvil awards
Anvil Awardee for Excellence for a Program in Support of Service

Ice Tea
VIVA!
OUTLAST
STAR TOLLWAY CORPORATION
PNCC

SIGNET's Hot Summer Bonus!

21 SEATER CARRY ALL
KC2700 PANORAMIC
Also Available in Aluminum Van & Dropside
S.R.P. P500,000
D.P. P100,000

4 x 4 CROSSTRAK
S.R.P. P675,000
D.P. P135,000

FREE 1 Year Comprehensive Insurance
FREE Chattel Mortgage Fee
FREE 1 Year LTO Registration
FREE Tint, Matting & Seat Cover

Promo Period:
Jan. 28 to March 27, 2002

RIO
Hatchback
D.P. P113,800 (manual)
D.P. P121,800 (automatic)
S.R.P. P569,000(manual)
S.R.P. P609,000(automatic)

PREGIO
S.R.P. P620,000
D.P. P124,000
Introducing:
The New 2002 Pregio
GS Special Edition and
LS with Captain Seats

KIA

KIA Balintawak (Signet Balintawak)
1240 Edsa Balintawak Q.C.
(Sales) 361-0544; 361-6556; 330-8019; 330-6670
362-5091; 362-5092
(Service) 361-0665; 361-8356; 330-6708 Fax: 362-8357

KIA Mandaluyong (Signet Mand.)
# 79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949;
531-4424 Fax: 531-4380

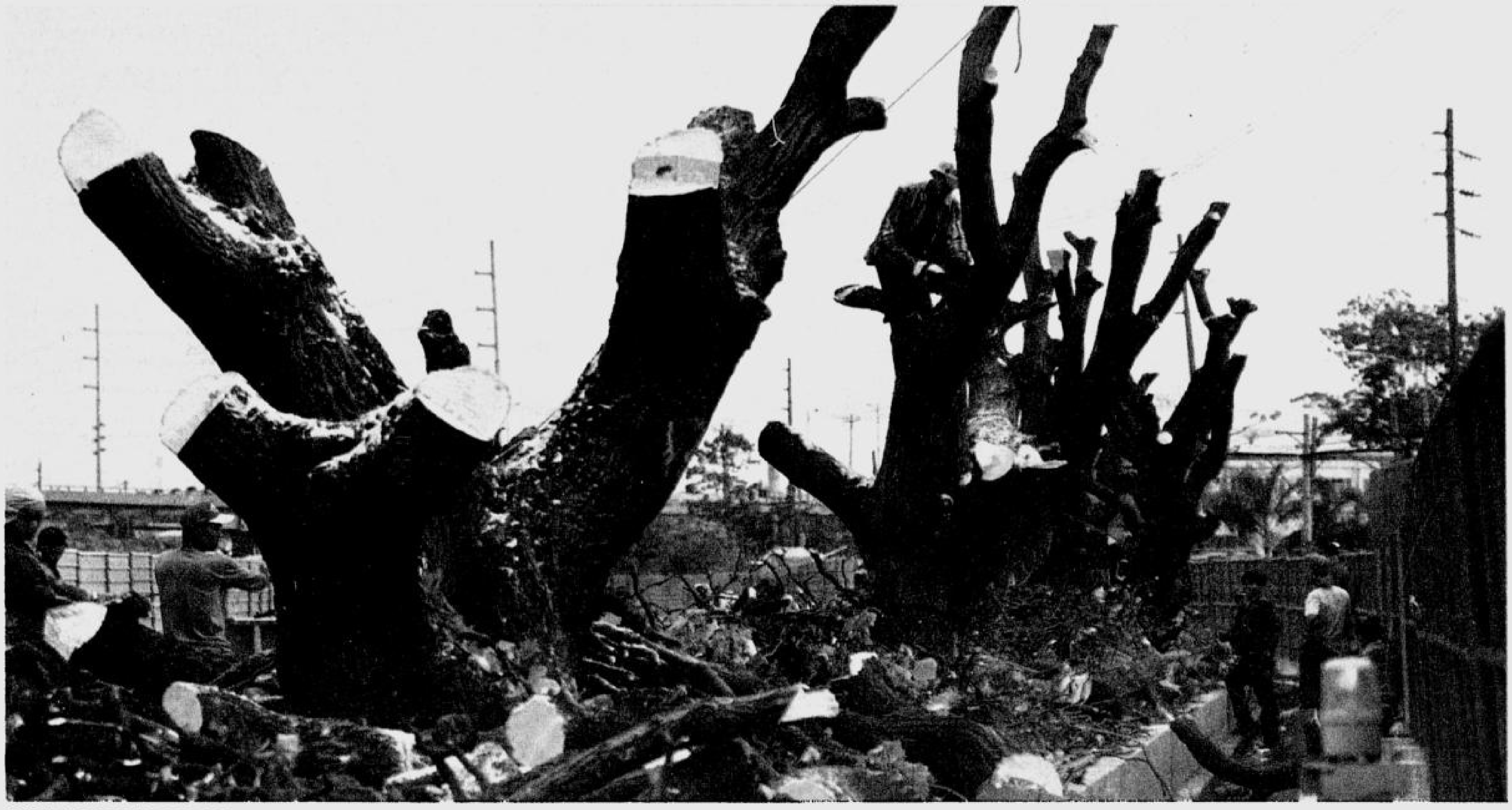
KIA Makati (Signet Makati)
La Fuerza Plaza
2241 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City
Tels.: 817-8416; 817-8417; 817-8406
Telefax: 817-8421

KIA Las Piñas (Signet Las Piñas)
(In front of SM Southmall)
Tels.: 806-2235; 801-7656;
801-7668; 802-1024 Telefax:806-2230

Subject to Bank Approval
Installment Plan: 24 months to 60 months
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0210 Series of 2002

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino



WHAT PRICE PROGRESS

Workers cut down big old trees in the middle of Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Avenue in Pasig City to clear the way for a skyway. The landscape will no longer have what a poet once compared to a lovely poem, but the traffic will be eased, or so the authorities hope.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

P122 per household–Jancom

NGO insists actual amount is P800

By Alcuin Papa

THE COST of keeping Metro Manila garbage-free is less than one peso per person or P122.40 a month for a household of five.

That is according to Jancom Environmental Corp., which has a contract with the Metro Manila Development Authority to collect and process an average of 3,000 tons of garbage a day in metropolis.

But detractors, led by the Bantay Kontrata and Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC), said the actual figure is P800 per household.

The Supreme Court's Third Division ruled in January that the Jancom contract made with the government in 1997 was "valid and perfected" and could be implemented once signed by the President.

In an interview with the Inquirer last week, Jancom chair Leonides Gonzalez said that the company's waste management project, once it is implemented, would actually reduce the current household spending of P255 per month on waste disposal.

Gonzales said the current figure is based on a solid waste management study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 1997.

The Jancom deal will translate to P0.89 per person every day to keep Metro Manila clean "using the latest in waste management technology," according to Gonzalez.

He said studies showed that the average household of five generates an average of 2.5 kilos of garbage every day or 75 kilos of waste a month.

The CNN-APC and Bantay Kontrata have alleged that Jancom's contract would defraud the government of P390 billion.

The groups said the Jancom contract was anomalous and provided no terms of reference.

The groups' spokesperson, Gideon Javier, said Jancom's P122 price tag per household does not cover the "overpricing of the increase in (the rate of) electricity and the increase in the country's consumer price index of an average of seven percent per year."

Javier explained that under Jancom's contract, the government is obliged to buy electricity from Jancom at the rate of nine centavos per kilowatt- hour.

"This is way below the Napocor rate of P1 to P2 per kilowatt hour," Javier said.

Even if Napocor refuses to buy electricity from Jancom, the government would still have to pay the garbage firm for the cost of electricity.

"With the fluctuation of the pesos versus the dollar and with inflation, we would be hit real hard with the contract," Javier said.

But Jancom said MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos had instructed them to "downscale" the project from the planned waste-to-energy facility and to submit a reduced tipping fee offer for a sanitary landfill instead.

A tipping fee is the fee the MMDA will pay Jancom for every metric ton of garbage it collects and processes.

Jancom said it has reduced its tipping fee from $59 to $32 per one metric ton, which it claimed was way below the average $38 to $60 tipping fee of modern sanitary landfill facilities worldwide.

Manila official arrested for P400,000 extort

By Jerome Aning

A BUILDING inspector who has been working at the Manila City Hall for the past 16 years was arrested Friday by police for allegedly extorting more than P400,000 from a Filipino-Chinese businessman.

Members of the Western Police District's special operations group caught engineer Luisito Nora after he received the money from complainant Anthony Alejo Dy, who owns the 19-story Cara Celine building.

The SOG commander, Supt. Ernesto Ibay, said Nora collected the money in return for the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the building, which is being constructed at the corner of Carmen and Kapitan Ticong streets in Malate.

Dy told police that Nora inspected the Cara Celine sometime in April 2001 and told him it had "several deficiencies."

He said Nora suggested that "the deficiencies could be remedied but that it would entail some expenses."

Dy said the inspector collected P255,467 from him in June and another P155,000 in December of the same year.

Dy said that earlier this month, Nora showed him a copy of the certificate. He said Nora told him that the document would only be released if Dy would give him another P100,000.

The businessman decided to file a complaint and later approached Jason Valencia, executive director of the City Hall watchdog,

MANILA OFFICIAL/ A20

Airport wants to make peace with Pasay dads

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MANILA International Airport Authority yesterday called for an amicable settlement of its rift with the Pasay City council over the airport's Terminal 3 project.

Miaa general manager Edgar Manda said his office is looking into complaints that airport officials have been bypassing the city council in the construction of the new terminal.

Manda said the findings will be presented to Pasay officials in a dialogue right after the Holy Week.

"We are both government offices so there's no use in us fighting in the media," he told the Inquirer. "We need to collaborate. After the dialogue, we will rectify whatever mistakes we have made."

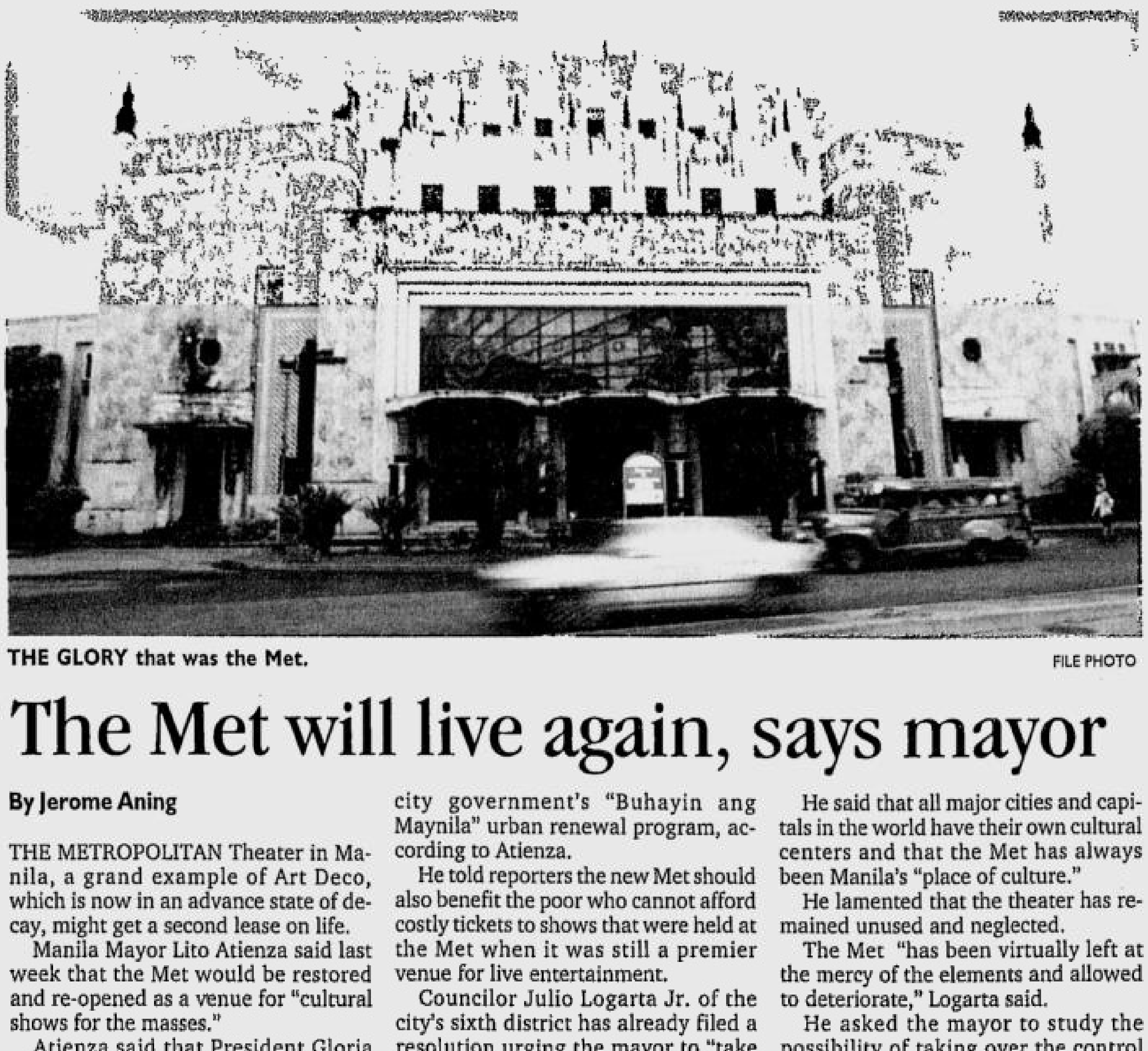
Manda was reacting to complaints by Councilor Allan Panaligan that airport authorities have been pressuring the city council into granting them a certificate of no-objection on the construction project.

Panaligan heads the city council's committees on engineering and public works and on land use and patrimony, which conduct public hearings on the Terminal 3.

"Actually, we are the ones feeling the pressure," Manda said. "We inherited the problem of the Terminal 3 from the previous (Miaa) administration and now we need to finish (the project) by December."

The new terminal is scheduled for in

AIRPORT WANTS/ A20



THE GLORY that was the Met.

FILE PHOTO

The Met will live again, says mayor

By Jerome Aning

THE METROPOLITAN Theater in Manila, a grand example of Art Deco, which is now in an advance state of decay, might get a second lease on life.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said last week that the Met would be restored and re-opened as a venue for "cultural shows for the masses."

Atienza said that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has issued a directive to various government agencies led by National Commission for Culture and the Arts to work for the renovation of the theater.

The Met's reopening will benefit the city government's "Buhayin ang Maynila" urban renewal program, according to Atienza.

He told reporters the new Met should also benefit the poor who cannot afford costly tickets to shows that were held at the Met when it was still a premier venue for live entertainment.

Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. of the city's sixth district has already filed a resolution urging the mayor to "take concrete steps" in making the Met as the capital's "cultural center."

"Manila must have its own cultural center right in the heart of the city, which will help promote and preserve our culture and history," Logarta said.

He said that all major cities and capitals in the world have their own cultural centers and that the Met has always been Manila's "place of culture."

He lamented that the theater has remained unused and neglected.

The Met "has been virtually left at the mercy of the elements and allowed to deteriorate," Logarta said.

He asked the mayor to study the possibility of taking over the control and administration of the Met if the national government's efforts to revive it fail.

Logarta said the city could run "well and ably provide" for the operation of a cultural center.

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

BUMA	MOONSTRUCKS DYNASOULS	896.2116/896.1939
Café OVERDRIVE	ACOUSTIC NIGHT NIKKI JUNIA	☎ 813.1348
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA	FEEDBACK PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
Cowboy Grill	SWEETBLOOD KOOLJACKS	ERASERHEADS APR 9 ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD POWER SURGE/FREEZE	ERASERHEADS APR 16 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 41 REMEDIOS ST. MALATE	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	BEAT BOX MR. ROXY	ERASERHEADS APR 2 ☎936.9757
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	PURE INSTINCT LADI / FRESHMEN	☎ 373.5110
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	TAFT AVE. ON-LINE	☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST.	MULATTO SPAGHETTI	VERSE 2 ☎522-0429
Tropical FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant	NTWINE	BRING D WHOLE FAMILY & GET A FREE MEAL

TUESDAY MARCH 26 912-8983

Brutality at the NBI headquarters

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

GONE are the days when the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was the refuge of citizens who were victims of police brutality.

The NBI has now become what it used to criticize and laugh at. It has joined the fraternity of abusive law enforcement agencies.

The complaint of Raul Furiel, 28, of Sta. Mesa, Manila, exemplifies how depraved some of its members are of the once-proud agency.

* * *

Furiel was driving his aunt's car when he bumped a woman who was crossing Claro M. Recto Avenue, Manila, at 3:15 p.m. It was an accident. Furiel said the woman crossed the street even while the red light for pedestrians was on.

Furiel's misfortune was that he bumped the wife of one of the most* abusive members of the NBI, Supervising Agent Timoteo J. Rejano of the Background Investigation Division.

Furiel took the victim to the De Ocampo Memorial Hospital in Nagtahan where she called her husband. As soon as the NBI agent arrived at the hospital, he immediately gave Furiel a flurry of blows. He didn't even care to ask the poor driver what happened.

* * *

You know what Rejano did to the hapless driver? He took him to the NBI headquarters, particularly to his unit's office. There, the assault on Furiel continued. What's worse, Rejano's superior, lawyer Mamerto Espartero, just looked on.

Even when he was crawling like a dog and seeking refuge under Espartero's table, Furiel said Rejano was kicking him repeatedly. And you know what? Allegedly, Espartero even jokingly asked Furiel if he was hurt! P@#$%^&*!

A day after he was taken to the NBI headquarters, Rejano took Furiel to the Manila City Prosecutor's Office at the City Hall. But not one of the assistant city prosecutors would receive Rejano's complaint against Furiel because of the condition of the victim. They asked Rejano to first obtain a medical certificate for Furiel before they would accept the complaint.

* * *

Failing to get a sympathetic fiscal at the City Hall, Rejano went around the different police stations in Manila with Furiel in tow. Rejano was apparently hoping to chance upon his friends among the inquest fiscals assigned in some Manila police stations. He couldn't find any.

So, back to the NBI detention cell Furiel was taken. He said there could have been an attempt to shoot him down while escaping. He said that his cell was deliberately left open at night. But Furiel did not bite the bait. He didn't try to escape.

The hapless man was detained for three days without charges being filed against him.

* * *

On the third day, Furiel's relatives sought the help of NBI Deputy Director Sammy Ong who immediately ordered him released. In fact, it was Ong who advised him to file charges against Rejano.

Instead of going to the prosecutor, the victim went directly to "Isumbong mo kay tulfo" on the 5th floor, Citystate Centre building, Shaw Boulevard, Barangay Oranbo, Pasig City.

I wasn't around when Furiel came visiting. But my staff, who took down his complaint, noticed that Furiel was badly shaken; he was trembling when he talked.

* * *

One of my reporters, Tina Yu, called up Rejano to try to get his side. Instead of giving his side, Rejano tried to talk Tina into not pursuing the story.

When Tina persisted, he accused her of blackmailing him and called her "gago." He told Tina he was a relative of retired General Alexander Aguirre, referring to the fact that Aguirre is married to my mother's younger sister, Auntie Chit. He probably thought that dropping Aguirre's name would make me sympathize with him.

He challenged my public service program to file charges against him.

Don't worry, Rejano, we are helping the jobless Furiel file criminal and administrative cases against you. I will not stop until I see you out of the NBI.

* * *

By the way, Tina asked Rejano why Furiel had to be taken to the NBI headquarters instead of the Manila police traffic station at Port Area since it was a mere traffic case. The NBI doesn't handle traffic cases.

You know what that stupid agent told Tina? That the NBI can handle any case under the Revised Penal Code.

Told that he should not have taken personal interest on the case since it involved his wife, Rejano blew his top.

* * *

Dear readers, I am also an impulsive person like Rejano. I can understand the sudden surge of anger when he saw his wife lying in bed at the emergency room of the hospital. I can understand why he beat up Furiel on impulse.

But I can never understand Rejano taking Furiel to the NBI headquarters and beating him up further even after he learned that his wife only suffered very minor injuries due to the accident. He not only beat up the helpless citizen, he also deprived him of his liberty.

I can never understand why he would kick Furiel repeatedly while he was down on the floor asking for mercy. I can never understand why Rejano would do that criminal act in front of his own boss, Espartero.

I can never understand why Espartero would jokingly ask the victim if he felt pain from all those blows.

My God, these men are beasts! And they're supposed to be lawyers!

* * *

I can never understand why Rejano's boss and fellow agents would just watch while a helpless man, whose only crime was accidentally bumping a pedestrian, was being pummeled in their presence.

Furiel said not a single guy in that room lifted a finger to help him or ask Rejano to stop.

I pity my friend, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. A mild-mannered, soft spoken and very rational person, Wycoco has suddenly found himself in the company of beasts.

Wife disputes cops' version of husband's death

By Philip C. Tubeza

HOUSEWIFE Jennylyn G. Refran, 26, is grieving and angry.

Police said her husband Leopoldo was shot dead in a firefight with Manila policemen on Sunday.

But Refran has another version of her husband's death. She said Leopoldo was alive when four policemen in a mobile patrol car picked him up at their home in Tondo, Manila on suspicion that he was involved in the killing of SPO1 Raymundo B. Manaois, 47, of the Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) last Friday.

"'*Day, 'Day, sumama ka, sumakay ka rito* (Come with me, get in the car quick)," she quoted Leopoldo as shouting to her as the mobile car sped away.

That was the last time she saw her husband alive, she said.

Police said Leopoldo was shot dead in a gun battle at 12:05 p.m. on Sunday along Road 10 in Tondo, Manila.

Leopoldo suffered five gunshot wounds in the back.

Police said Leopoldo had an unidentified companion, who was armed with a.38 revolver and who escaped.

But Refran said that four policemen, one of whom was identified as PO3 Bernardo Balais, picked up her husband at about noon on Sunday.

She said she went to the nearby police detachment after Leopoldo's arrest and then to the Western Police District Station 1, but did not find him.

Refran said she waited at the station and when a police car arrived, she asked the policemen on board the car where her husband was.

She quoted a policeman as telling her in Filipino: "He's gone. He's in Tondo (General Hospital) and he is no longer breathing. The only thing needed is an investigator."

She said she went home and one of her neighbors told her that Leopoldo was dead and his body was in the hospital.

PO3 Balais said he shot dead Leopoldo during a firefight.

Balais and three of his fellow policemen were on patrol along Road 10 to deter highway robbers after the recent rise of robbery cases along the major thoroughfare connecting Manila and northern suburbs.

SPO1 Manaois was robbed and shot dead in front of his wife and baby on Friday night while they were stuck on traffic along Road 10.

Balais told investigators that he saw Leopoldo and his accomplice suspiciously hiding in the grass along the highway near the Makro supermarket.

Balais said he and his fellow policemen were about to check what they were up to when Leopoldo's companion opened fire on the policemen.

He said he returned fire and hit Leopoldo while his companion escaped by commandeering a passenger jeepney that drover toward Navotas.

Paterno said robbery victims went to the WPD Station 1 in Tondo and identified Leopoldo as one of those who held them up.

He said other witnesses also identified Leopoldo as one of the two robbers who held up and killed Manaois on Friday night.

TUP raffle postponed

THE TECHNOLOGICAL University of the Philippines (TUP) Marine Engineering Alumni Association (MEAAI) has decided to postpone its raffle draw from March 26 to Sept. 26, 2002.

The raffle draw will award a house and lot as first prize, a scooter as second prize, a computer set as third prize and 10 consolation prizes.

Call 523-55-02 and 820-57-32 for details.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, March 26, 2002
Tuesday of Holy Week

1st Reading: **Is 49:1-6**
Gospel: **Jn 13:21-33, 36-38**

Jesus was distressed in spirit and said plainly, "Truly, one of you will betray me." The disciples then looked at one another, wondering who he meant. One of the disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining near Jesus; so Simon Peter signaled him to ask Jesus whom he meant.

And the disciple who was reclining near Jesus asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "I shall dip a piece of bread in the dish, and he to whom I give it, is the one."

So Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And as Judas took the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus then said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

None of the others reclining at table understood why Jesus said this to Judas. As he had the common purse, they may have thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or, "Give something to the poor." Judas left as soon as he had eaten the bread. It was night.

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. God will glorify him, and he will glorify him very soon.

My children, I am with you for only a little while; you will look for me, but, as I already told the Jews, so now I tell you: where I am going you cannot come.

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but afterwards you will." Peter said, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I am ready to give my life for you." Jesus answered, "To give your life for me! Truly, I tell you, the cock will not crow before you have denied me three times."

Commentary

The darkness deepens; the light grows brighter. Judas goes out to betray Jesus: "It was night"; and Jesus proclaims: "Now is the Son of Man glorified." Darkness and light, the rhythm of our days. Jesus will enter our darkness to bring us into light. Life always begins in darkness, and enters the light of day with blood and pain. In Christ, God is giving birth to all of us. This is God's plan: "everything in heaven and on earth is united in Christ". (Eph 1:10) It is no pious fiction to say that we are with Christ in this passover journey. Every atom of the universe is with him. And it is all worked out in a simple human being, sharing our emotions: distress of spirit when betrayed. In Christ, each life has immense significance. Death and rebirth are at work in us all.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—Prosecution must prove two things in criminal conviction—Every criminal conviction requires of the prosecution to prove two things: the fact of the crime, i.e., the presence of all the elements of the crime for which the accused stands charged, and the fact that the accused is the perpetrator of the crime. The records do not show any direct evidence to prove that it was accused-appellant who killed the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Ayola, G.R. No. 138923, September 4, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

TERMINAL CASE

DENNIS SABANGAN

Scenes like this one in Cubao, Quezon City, of entire families waiting long hours to board buses to their provinces, are repeated in many bus terminals in the metropolis. The congestion and the long wait worsen in mid-week when more people troop to their hometowns and vacation spots for the rest of the Holy Week.

Former Taguig mayor cleared of 11-year-old graft charges

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has cleared a former Taguig mayor of graft charges filed against him by his vice mayor and councilors 11 years ago.

In a 16-page decision, the Fourth Division of the anti-graft court said Rodolfo de Guzman, Taguig mayor from 1988 to 1992, had nothing to do with the donation of three air-conditioned buses to the House of Representatives in 1991.

The division, chaired by Associate Justice Narciso Nario, also dismissed the case against co-accused Alfredo Caldozo for lack of jurisdiction.

The complainants claimed De Guzman acted in bad faith when he supposedly authorized the release of the vehicles, which were among the 12 buses donated to Taguig by a Japanese company.

The supposed subsequent donation of the buses to the Lower House deprived Taguig of the beneficial use of the vehicles, the complainants told the court.

The municipal council even appropriated P700,000 for taxes, duties and freight for the release of the three buses, court records showed.

The rest of the donation package from Shinkoa Co. Inc. went to the Philippine National Police.

In his defense, De Guzman admitted he tapped Caldozo to facilitate the release of the buses from the Bureau of Customs. But he insisted that he had no intention of donating three of the buses to the House of Representatives.

He presented two letters to then-Speaker Ramon Mitra, dated Dec. 23, 1992 and June 2, 1992, stating that he had not authorized the donation.

In clearing De Guzman, the Sandiganbayan said it found "no necessity for the court to inquire into whether or not Taguig suffered undue injury."

The anti-graft court pointed out that the P700,000 allocated by the municipal council for the release of three of the buses from the Bureau of Customs "has remained intact and available for disbursement" as certified by municipal treasurer Manuel Alday.

Manila official ...

From page A19

Tanggapang Masa Complaints and Action Center.

Valencia reported the case to Mayor Lito Atienza who instructed him to coordinate with Ibay to entrap Nora.

At about 3:15 p.m. Friday, Nora arrived at the Cara Celine to collect the money. Dy handed him a white envelope containing 10 pieces of marked P1,000 bills.

SOG members who waited nearby caught the building inspector as soon as he received the money.

Nora later tested positive for fluorescent powder on his hands and arms. The envelope and the money were earlier coated with the powder.

Nora was presented to the mayor the same afternoon. Nora was immediately suspended and will be charged with violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Passenger safety guaranteed by Miaa

THE MANILA International Airport Authority announced safety and convenience measures for travelers who will use the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Manila Domestic Airport during the Holy Week rush.

Miaa General Manager Edgardo Manda assured passengers that the airport police will be out in full force to foil any unlawful attempt by criminals on travelers.

Manda urged travelers to immediately report any suspicious-looking persons to any airport policeman.

Manda said in a statement that passenger assistance desks and flight monitoring counters will be placed in strategic areas of the two airports for both welcomers and wait-listed passengers.

The names of wait-listed passengers will be computerized to prevent passenger congestion at the counters and to prevent haggling, Manda said. He also urged passengers to check in two hours before their flight.

The airport clinic will be open 24 hours a day for the Holy Week, and complaints will be entertained round the clock, Manda said.

He said the airport police will be deployed in the vicinity of the airports to help ease vehicular and passenger traffic and prevent missed flights.

"Let me also reiterate that the use of pushcarts in the airports is free," he added.

Airport ...

From page A19

auguration on Nov. 25 and for actual operation by the end of the year, according to him.

The Miaa stands to pay huge amounts in case of a delay, he said.

Panaligan said this was exactly the reason why Manda and his men have been asking the city council to approve the project, although they have yet to complete the requirements.

The councilor said the city government is also looking into complaints that with the new airport facility, Pasay residents would be endangered with the transfer of the aviation gas depot to Barangay 201 and the construction of transmission lines in Villamor.

Manda said his office has been actively participating in the public hearings conducted by the city council to explain the project and douse the fears of the residents.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173803

1 JOHN Q
2 ICE AGE
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 WE WERE SOLDIERS
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 BANDITS
8 THE MAJESTIC

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 JOHN Q
2 BANDITS
3 ICE AGE
4 THE MAJESTIC
5 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS
8 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
9 JIMMY NEUTRON
10 SNAKE CHARMER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9380749

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 SNAKE CHARMER
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS
8 ICE AGE
9 JOHN Q
10 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
11 D-TOX
12 BANDITS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 BANDITS
2 JIMMY NEUTRON
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 ICE AGE
5 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6 THE MAJESTIC
7 SNAKE CHARMER
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
10 JOHN Q
11 D-TOX
12 WE WERE SOLDIERS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 JIMMY NEUTRON
4 JOHN Q
5 GOOD ADVICE
6 THE MAJESTIC
7 SNAKE CHARMER
8 BANDITS
9 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
10 ICE AGE
11 GOT 2 BELIEVE
12 A BEAUTIFUL MIND

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9206452

1 JIMMY NEUTRON
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 THE MAJESTIC
5 JOHN Q
6 BANDITS
7 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 BANDITS
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066659

1 JOHN Q
2 BANDITS
3 JIMMY NEUTRON
4 ICE AGE
5 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 THE MAJESTIC
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
9 WE WERE SOLDIERS
10 SNAKE CHARMER

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 RAT RACE
3 JIMMY NEUTRON
4 D-TOX
5 SHIPPING NEWS
6 BIBINGKA
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 13 GHOSTS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 CLOSED
3 D-TOX
4 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 13 GHOSTS
7 CLOSED
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126015

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
4 D-TOX
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 ICE AGE
4 BANDITS

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 EVA
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 SNAKE CHARMER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 BANDITS
3 ICE AGE
4 SNAKE CHARMER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976996

1 JIMMY NEUTRON
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 13 GHOSTS
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 SHIPPING NEWS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6380781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777

All Digital Sound

G1 (GLORIETTA 1)

1 BANDITS
2 ICE AGE (Adv. Screening)
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

G4 (GLORIETTA 4)

1 JOHN Q
2 THE MAJESTIC
3 BANDITS THX
GUARANTEED SEATS
4 GOOD ADVICE
5 JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS
6 ICE AGE (Adv. Screening)
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND

GB1 (GREENBELT 1)

1 PERFUME (Phil. Premiere)
2 BANDITS
3 JOHN Q
4 Onstage LANI ON STAGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 • 8 PM

ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)

1 ICE AGE (Adv. Screening) THX
2 THE MAJESTIC
3 JOHN Q
4 JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS
5 BANDITS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 (SDDS) ICE AGE
3 (DTS) JIMMY NEUTRON
4 GOLD (DTS) THEMAJESTIC
5 GOLD (DOLBY) JOHN Q
6 GOLD (SDDS) A BEAUTIFUL MIND
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BANDITS
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 WE WERE SOLDIERS
10 ROYAL TENENBAUMS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 EVA
3 (DTS) BANDITS
4 ICE AGE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 BIBINGKA
2 BANDITS
3 ICE AGE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 ICE AGE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BANDITS
5 EVA

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 ICE AGE
2 BIBINGKA
3 BANDITS
4 SNAKE CHARMER
5 THE MAJESTIC
6 JOHN Q
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 ICE AGE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 RESERVE
2 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
3 GAWIN SA DILIM

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 BANDITS
A GAWIN SA DILIM

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 EVA
3 GAWIN SA DILIM
4 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) BANDITS
2
3
4 JIMMY NEUTRON
5 SNAKE CHARMER
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7 (DTS) THE MAJESTIC
8 (SDDS) JOHN Q
9 (DOLBY) ICE AGE

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 BIBINGKA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 SNAKE CHARMER
4 (SDDS) BANDITS
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY) THE MAJESTIC
7 (DTS) ICE AGE
8 BIBINGKA
9 RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS) ICE AGE
6 BIBINGKA
7 (DOLBY) BANDITS
8 JOHN Q

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 RESERVE
2 ICE AGE
3 (DTS) BANDITS
4 SNAKE CHARMER
5 (SDDS) JOHN Q

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BANDITS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet
SNAKE CHARMER

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 BANDITS
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BANDITS
2 MAJESTIC
3 SNAKE CHARMER
4 ICE AGE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 OPENS MARCH 30
2 OPENS MARCH 30

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 BANDITS
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BIBINGKA
3 (DTS) ICE AGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS) ICE AGE
3 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 JIMMY NEUTRON

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 LORD OF THE RINGS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 13 GHOSTS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 RAT RACE
3 (DOLBY) 13 GHOSTS
4 (DTS) BEAUTIFUL MIND

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) RESERVE
2 BIBINGKA
3 MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
4 (DTS) BANDITS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 EVA
3 (DTS) JIMMY NEUTRON
4 BIBINGKA
5 ICE AGE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 ICE AGE
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 BIBINGKA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 ICE AGE
2 JIMMY NEUTRON
3 BIBINGKA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 ESKANDALOSA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
2 THE BODY
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) EVA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 EVA
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 BIBINGKA
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 ICE AGE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
3 (DTS) D-TOX
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE THX NOW SHOWING

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX GOOD ADVICE
2 THE MAJESTIC
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 JIMMY NEUTRON
5 JOHN Q
6 ICE AGE
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 BANDITS
9 WE WERE SOLDIERS
10 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Ermita
536-7809-12

1 ICE AGE
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 JIMMY NEUTRON
4 GOOD ADVICE
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 JOHN Q
7 BANDITS

Metro East -
Marcos Hway 682-8193 / 8280

1 JOHN Q
2 BANDITS
3 THE MAJESTIC
4 JIMMY NEUTRON
5 ICE AGE
6 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
7 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Novaliches
935-3279-30

1 BANDITS
2 ICE AGE
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 JOHN Q
5 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6 JIMMY NEUTRON
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 WE WERE SOLDIERS

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

1 THE MAJESTIC
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BANDITS
4 ICE AGE
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

1 13 GHOSTS
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 ESKANDALOSA
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Iloilo
336-8077-78

1 D-TOX
2 JIMMY NEUTRON
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 13 GHOSTS
6 A BEATIFUL MIND

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927
961-5318 / 5270

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
3 EVA
4 D-TOX
5 JIMMY NEUTRON
6 JIMMY NEUTRON

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

MATINEE PRICE
@ One(1)-level CINEMAS
of Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

P65.00 Premiere Section
P80.00 THX Cinema

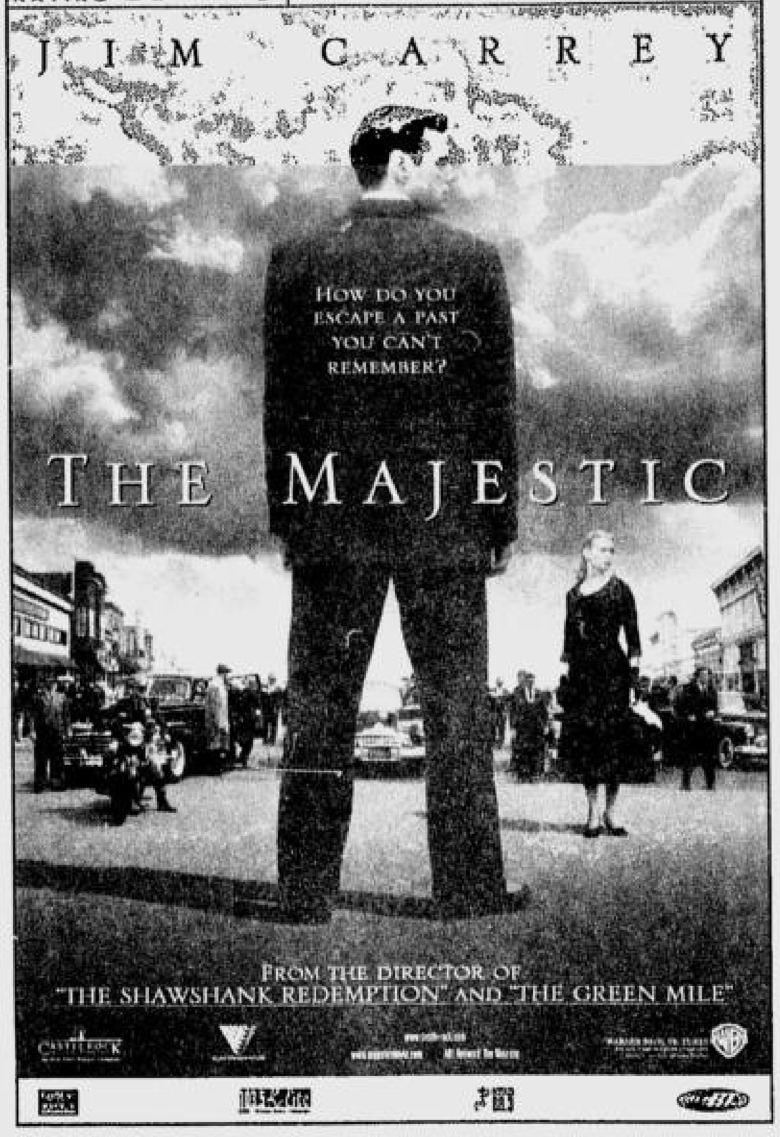
Effective MARCH 20, 2002
Mondays to Fridays • 10am. to 4pm.

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



JIM CARREY
HOW DO YOU ESCAPE A PAST YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?
THE MAJESTIC
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION" AND "THE GREEN MILE"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMMED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BANDITS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAJESTIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	JIMMY NEUTRON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	JOHN Q
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SNAKE CHARMER
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	AMADILO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	JOHN Q
ODEON-2	BANDITS
ROBEN	SNAKE CHARMER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BIBINGKA
REMAR	SNAKE CHARMER
REMAR-2	BIBINGKA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-2	BANDITS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-2	ACHILLES
CINEMA-3	BIBINGKA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D-TOX
CINEMA-6	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
CINEMA-7	EVA
CINEMA-8	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MAJESTIC
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANDITS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	JOHN Q
CINEMA-12	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-14	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-15	GOT 2 BELIEVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BANDITS
CINEMA-2	JIMMY NEUTRON
CINEMA-3	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-4	ICE AGE / THE MAJESTIC
CINEMA-5	GOOD ADVICE
CINEMA-6	JOHN Q
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

SHARPER
03.30.02
AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM GREENBELT Art Film

OPENS MARCH 30 (Sat.)

AN EXCLUSIVE PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

"A twisted romantic comedy in the spirit of *THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY*".

GET WELL SOON

starring

Courtney Cox Arquette
(Scream, "Friends," Ace Ventura Pet Detective)

Vincent Gallo
(Buffalo'66, House of the Spirits)

Jeffrey Tambor
(Girl Interrupted, There's Something About Mary)

Tate Donovan
(Murder at 1600, Ethan Frome)

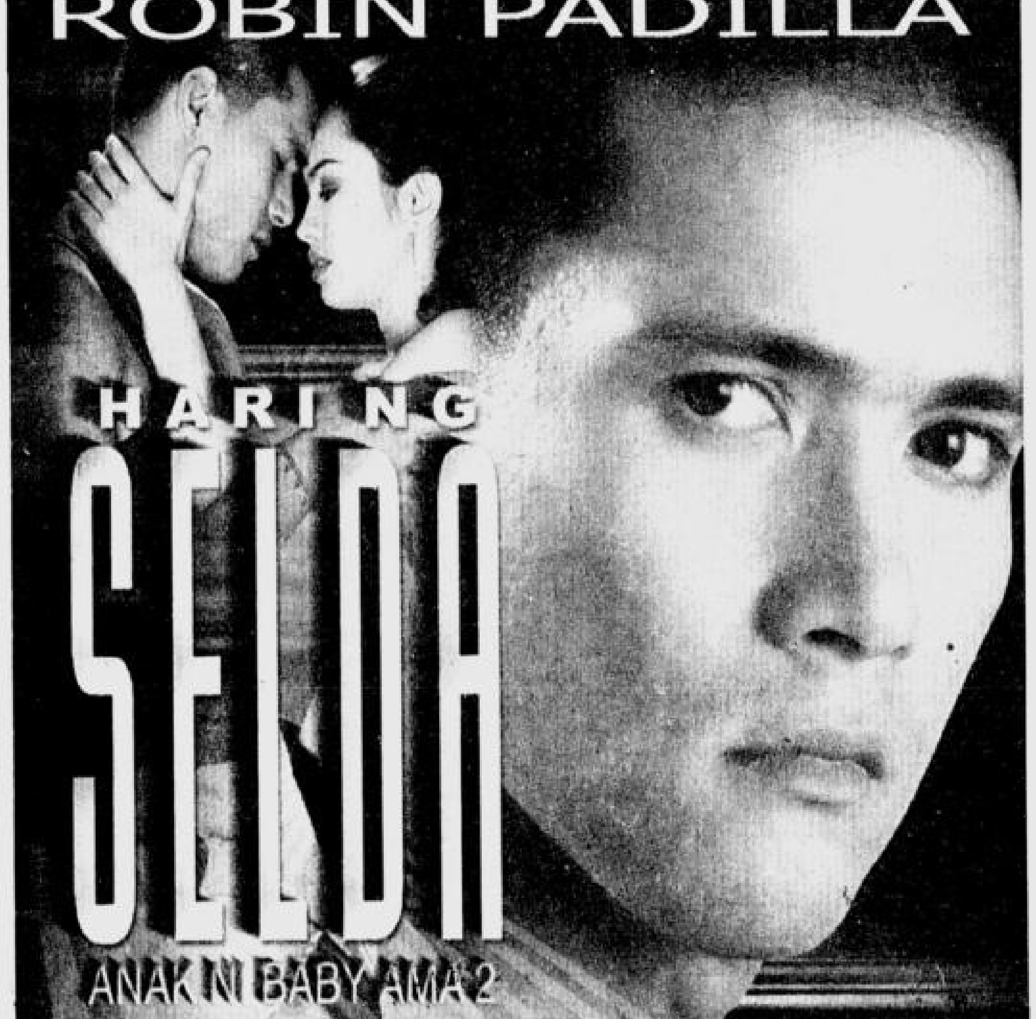
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

Courtney Cox Arquette
Vincent Gallo
Jeffrey Tambor
Tate Donovan
GET WELL SOON
JUSTIN McCARTHY

3-TAON NABILIBID
NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!

ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA



HARING SELDA
ANAK NI BABY AMA 2

Raven Villanueva Rommel Padilla and Johnny Delgado

DIRECTED BY DEO J. FAJARDO, JR.

VIVA FILMS

'PRE PERSONALAN NA 'TO!
OPENS MARCH 30 NATIONWIDE

SEE IT FIRST!

SM CINEMA

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
March 25-26

RAY ROMANO
JOHN LEGUIZAMO
DENIS LEARY
SUB-ZERO HEROES
ICE AGE
LICENSE TO CHILL
iceagemovie.com

MTRCB RATING: GP

Tickets available at:
SM MANILA•MEGAMALL•CENTERPOINT•SOUTHMALL
FAIRVIEW•SUCAT•NORTH EDSA•BACOOR•TUTUBAN

See it first!

SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING

LET THE COMBAT BEGIN
BLADE II

MTRCB RATING: P13

Invitational DWTM Screening on
March 26, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 3

Regular showing on Mar. 30 at the SM CINEMAS.

$48,000,000 THE HIGHEST WEEKEND OPENING IN THE US THIS YEAR

MTRCB RATING ➤ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

LICENSED TO CHILL ON MARCH 30
ICE AGE
Blue Sky
www.iceagemovie.com

Special thanks to: DUNKIN' DONUTS Pasalubong ng Bayan SMART Simply Amazing! Information Gateway 92.3 Rhythms RT Magic 89.9 WRock

Sharon, KC bonding in Paris

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SHARON Cuneta and her daughter **KC Concepcion** have left for a five-day visit to Paris. The megastar is excited about the trip, which is her long-overdue gift to KC, because it will allow them to bond in the French capital.

"We are simply using our mileage *kasi nagtitipid kami,*" Sharon explained. "KC and I both love Paris."

From Paris, they will proceed to Bangkok, where they will meet up with Sharon's husband, Sen. **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan**, their one-year-old daughter **Frankie** and Sharon's mom, **Elaine Cuneta**.

The Paris and Bangkok trips are a long-delayed break for Sharon, who has been working hard the past few months. She completed a movie with **Robin Padilla**, "Pagdating ng Panahon," rushed in time for a Valentine's Day playdate. She also performed in the two-night concert of pianist-composer **Jim Brickman** at the PICC last week.

Sharon has also been promoting her BMG Records debut album, "All I Ever Want," which carries two original compositions by Brickman, the carrier track "Where's the Good in Goodbye" and "In Your Eyes," a duet with Chinese music superstar **Andy Lau**.

Two days before she left for Paris, Sharon graced the trade convention of Fuji Film at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, where the Frontier 330 mini-lab was launched.

When she returns, Sharon will start "Magkapatid," her movie with **Judy Ann Santos**, from Viva Films. It is one of the six official entries in the revived Manila Film Festival in June.

Expensive endorser

AT THE Frontier 330 launch, YKL Fuji sales and marketing manager **Sony Teves** noted that it's expensive to sign up Sharon as a celebrity endorser.

"But she's a very effective endorser," Teves said. "Every product she endorses registers high sales, so getting her is really worth it."

That explains why Sharon is the leading endorser in show biz. She "sells" a lot of products, including soy sauce, corned beef, book store, ocean liner, courier service, fried chicken and milk.

She stars in the new Fuji TV ad with her long-time *yaya*, Luring. The megastar was the guest of honor and speaker during the YKL Fuji trade convention early last week.

Teves informed that the Frontier 330 minilab, launched during the convention, is a fully digital imaging technology capable of printing digital shots on photo paper. It can also process colored CDs, zip disks, PC cards and a wide range of outputs like greeting cards, calendar prints, monochrome and sepia photos.

Fuji recently opened its first digital station at the basement of SM Megamall Building A. The one-stop digital shop is equipped with the Frontier 370 minilab and will soon use the more advanced Frontier 330.

Friendship matters

BONG Revilla Jr. would have been one of the big stars in the Manila Film Festival in June with his entry, "Ang Kilabot." But when Bong learned that his good friend **Rudy Fernandez** was also fielding an entry, Bong decided to give way.

Rudy stars in "Diskarte," opposite **Ara Mina**.

"Ang Kilabot" pairs Bong for the first time with sexy actress **Assunta de Rossi**.

Both action stars have TV programs on GMA 7. Rudy hosts the crime-drama series, "Kasangga," while Bong is in the sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap."

"At this point in my life and career, I don't really want to make a big fuss about competition," Bong says. "We should help each other so the industry can recover. Rudy and I should not be pitted against each other in the box-office. That way, *hindi rin kami magkakasakitan.*"

Friendship was Bong's primary consideration in backing out from the filmfest.

"Friendship lasts," he explains. "You can squander money, but true friendship is lasting. That was the big lesson I learned during my experiences the past year."

Lea vs Alicia

IT WAS not hard to guess who would be the new image model of Kamiseta, the clothing line for young women. The huge Kamiseta billboards in Metro Manila, which used to show sisters **China** and **Mai-Mai Cojuangco**, came out with a teaser saying "She's clueless and she's a bat of a girl."

If your guess is Hollywood actress **Alicia Silverstone**, star of "Clueless" and the most recent Batgirl in the "Batman" series (with **George Clooney** and **Chris O'Donnell**), you're right.

But the question is, why did Kamiseta sign up an American actress to endorse its clothing line? Does Kamiseta want to pit Alicia with Bayo image model **Lea Salonga**?

Why did Kamiseta also junk the Cojuangco sisters in favor of Silverstone?

Kamiseta could have cooked up a more aggressive advertising campaign. It doesn't really need a Hollywood actress, who must be paid several thousands of dollars, to promote its label.

We heard Bayo's sales grew after Lea became its signature model.

Last January, INQUIRER did a lifestyle pictorial of Lea modeling the summer collection of Bayo, which was not yet available in the stores then. But after the pictorial came out, young women started flocking to the Bayo boutiques, looking for the trendy summer clothes. Before Lea left for the States last December, we heard she had renewed her contract with Bayo for another year.

It still remains to be seen whether young Filipino women can identify with Alicia. Naturally, Alicia fans will be thrilled. But after "Clueless" and "Batman," Alicia has not had a hit so many movie audiences hardly remember her.

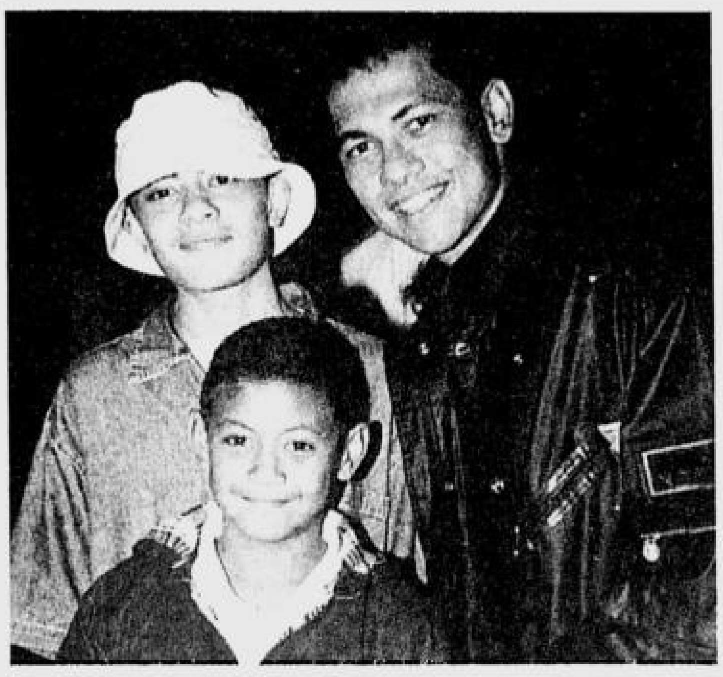
She starred in box-office flops like "Excess Baggage" which she also produced, and "Blast From the Past," opposite **Brendan Fraser**.

In 1997, I interviewed Alicia in Hong Kong during the Asian junket of "Batman and Robin." The most striking thing I remember about her is when she corrected a Taiwanese journalist who kept mispronouncing her name.

"It's Ah-lee-see-ya, not Ah-lee-sha!," she said.

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta and her *Yaya* Luring during the YKL Fuji trade convention with (from left) YKL general manager Robert Lim, senior manager Hiroyuki Sakai of Photofinishing International Marketing Division, YKL chair Yang Koc Le, YKL president Joey Yang and wife Anne Yang.

FIRST TEAM-UP. Bong Revilla Jr. and Assunta de Rossi in "Ang Kilabot."



PAOLO Valenciano (left) with dad Gary and younger brother Gabriel.

Like father, like son

PAOLO Valenciano, eldest son of Gary and Angeli Valenciano, bagged the role of Peter, one of the four leads in the musical, "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," to be staged in Singapore in August.

Paolo was among the 600 talents who auditioned last week in Singapore. He was accompanied by his mom Angeli.

This will be the first time Paolo will star in a musical.

Dad Gary was the lead in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," staged by Trumpets at the Meralco Theater two years ago.

OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 !
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
A WOMAN SEEKING LIBERATION
A LOVE THAT WIL REDEEM THEM ALL!

RODEL VELAYO
ALLONA AMOR
WINSTON ELIZALDE
CELSO AD CASTILLO
as Mang Tonio
"Heart has its reasons which mind cannot understand."
and introducing
DIANA ZUBIRI
ITLOG
directed by
FRANCIS 'JUN' POSADAS
a SEIKO Films presentation

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

AFTER KAMASUTRA COMES...
PLAYBOY
MARSHA YUEH
PLAYBOY'S CENTERFOLDS
SNAKE CHARMER

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 BANDITS
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
P 13
CINEMA 2 THE MAJESTIC
12:40, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00
GP
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-0573
MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM APRIL 12 & 13 KUH LEDESMA (On Higher Ground) 9:00 PM / APRIL 19 & 20 K NA K KA NA BA? (ALLAN K.) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BANDITS - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10	JIMMY NEUTRON - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P 13 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30
ICE AGE- GP 11:10, 1:00, 2:50, 4:40 MAJESTIC - GP 6:30, 9:30	GOOD ADVICE - P 13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10	JOHN Q - P 13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

THE TIME MACHINE
MARA
Woman Warrior of the Eloi
The woman who defies her people and befriends the stranger from another time.
SAMANTHA MUMBA
MARCH 30, 2002
DREAMWORKS PICTURES

OPENS MARCH 30
@
The All-Digital Sound
GLORIETTA 4
CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
AYALA CINEMAS
SKYFILMS
NOKIA
INQUIRER

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM
"A fiercely brilliant film of such wrenching impact, nonstop drive and unpredictability that watching it becomes an exhilarating ride."
– Michael Wilmington
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

amores perros

WINNER - BEST FILM !
2001 ARIELS
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILMFEST
BOGOTA FILMFEST / BOSTON SOCIETY
BRITISH ACADEMY / CAMERIMAGE
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL / FANTASPORTO
INDEPENDENT SPIRIT
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW(USA)

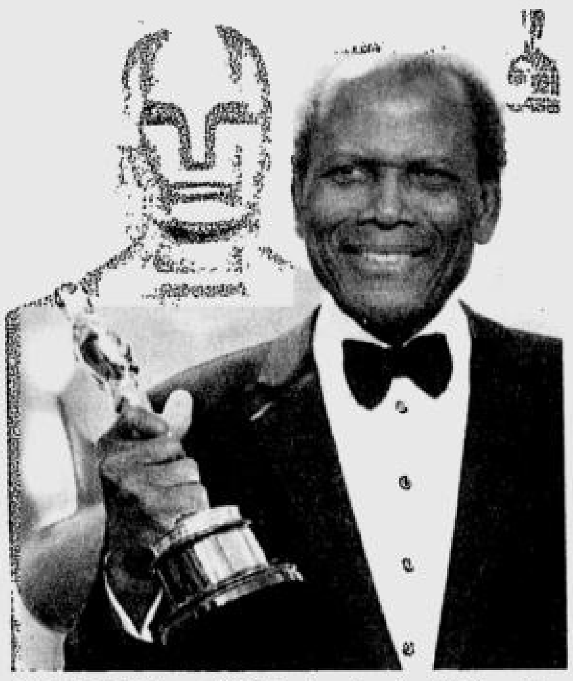
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

JENNIFER Connelly, best supporting actress, "A Beautiful Mind."

HALLE Berry, best actress, "Monsters Ball," with husband Eric Benet.

RON Howard, best director and best picture, "A Beautiful Mind."



SIDNEY Poitier, 1963 best actor for "Lilies of the Field," gets honorary Oscar for his career achievements.

And the Oscar goes to . . .

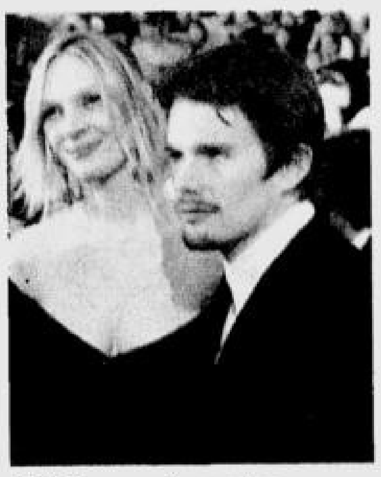
SEE STORY ON PAGE A1

WHOOPI Goldberg, who got her Oscar for best supporting actress in "Ghost" and who was the Academy's first woman host, calls herself "the real 'Sexy Beast'."

TOM Cruise was not nominated for the weird "Vanilla Sky" but he opens the show.

DENZEL Washington, best actor for "Training Day," gets a hug from presentor and "A Pelican Brief" costar Julia Roberts, last year's best actress.

RUSSEL Crowe, best actor nominee for "A Beautiful Mind," and 2001 winner for "Gladiator," with girlfriend Danielle Spencer.

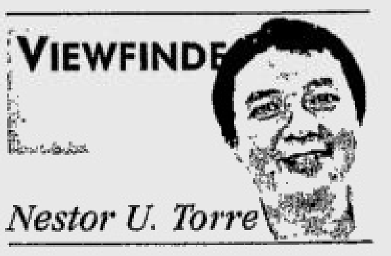


BEST supporting actor nominee Ethan Hawke, for "Training Day," with wife Uma Thurman.

ROBERT Redford receives Oscar for lifetime achievement from "The Way We Were" costar Barbra Streisand.

RYAN O'Neal and Ali McGraw announce the humanitarian award for their "Love Story" director, Arthur Hiller.

Boob-tube booboos and quiz-show errors



Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Do you agree that the problems of this country are insurmountable?

Guest: Of course not. Many of the problems can be solved if I'm become the president of this country.

(We don't know about that!)

* * *

Host: I hear you have a new commercial?

Guest: Oh, yes, I'm proud of it, it's very sexy and very decent!

(The best of both worlds?)

* * *

Host: What's your fashion forecast for the Oscar awards ceremonies later this month?

Guest cohost: From, the sketches I've seen by the best designers, this year's fashions will feature very low necknines.

(*Ay*, necknines!)

* * *

Newscaster: What's the latest on the car crash in Sta. Mesa earlier this evening?

Remote reporter: The driver of the vehicle was unfortunately pronounced dead on a spot.

(Dead on a spot? What's that?)

* * *

Master of ceremonies: Why did you decide to join this beauty contest?

Finalist: I joined because it gives me an opportunity in helping our less unfortunate brothers and sisters!

(Less unfortunate? *Baliktad yata.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: Which US state was named after Queen Elizabeth the First?

Contestant: Virgin Islands!

(No, Virginia.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What was the former name of Ho Chi Minh City?

Contestant: Hong Kong!

(No, Saigon!)

* * *

Contributions of Mr. **Loi R. Landicho**:

Quizmaster: *Sa isang* Filipino epic, *sino ang asawa ni* **Ines Canoyan**?

Contestant: **Hercules**!

(*Pinoy pala si* Hercules? No, the answer is **Lam-Ang**.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa* tongue-twister *na* minikaniko *ni* Monico *ang* makina ng Minica *ni* Monica, *anong uri ang kotse ni* Monica?

Contestant: Kotse!

(*Ang kulit*! The correct answer is Minica.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* scientific name *ng* abaca?

Contestant: Wood!

(No, *Musa textilis*.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang unang* element *sa* periodic table of elements?

Contestant: Oxygen!

(No, Hydrogen.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* meaning *ng* French term *na* "Je'taime?"

Contestant: "I don't know"!

(You really don't! The correct answer is "I love you.")

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saang bahagi ng katawan isinusuot ang* toupee?

Contestant: *Sa kamay!*

(Hey, that's new! Try *natin?* But the correct answer is *ulo.*)

'The Deep End'

DO watch out for the film "The Deep End" when it shows in town. It got noticed at the 2001 Sundance and Cannes filmfests due to its unusually fascinating study of deception.

In the film by **Scott MaGehee** and **David Siegel**, a woman covers up a murder in order to protect her teenage son from being implicated. But someone knows, the information is worth money—and the price of silence is even higher.

Ironically, each decision the mother makes to hide the evidence adds another life-threatening twist to the case.

The mother is played by **Tilda Swinton**, who was last seen on the big screen in "The Beach." And the mysterious witness and tormentor is portrayed by **Goran Visnjic**, who has attracted a lot of attention on the TV medical series, "E.R."

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 a.m., "Dog Park." 3 p.m., "Allan Quartermain and the Lost City of Gold."

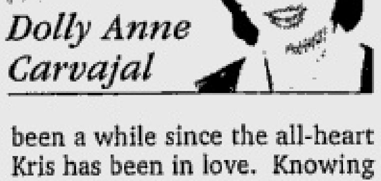
Wednesday, March 27 at 8 a.m., "Dead in the Water." 11 a.m., "The Iron Giant." 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." 2:45 a.m., "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport."

On Cinemax, March 25 at 2 p.m., "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." 10:30 p.m., "Mercy." 1:25 a.m., "The Ten Commandments."

March 26, 12:45 p.m., "Sabrina." 1:45 a.m., "Taxi Driver."

March 27, 8 a.m., "The Searchers." 11:45 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Marlon Brando."

Romance brewing between Kris and Troy?



Dolly Anne Carvajal

JUST asking . . .

Will **Charlene Gonzales** be hosting a lifestyle show soon? Wonder if her hubby **Aga Muhlach** is going to be part of the show if and when it materializes. It would be a refreshing change to see Aga in an altogether different TV show for he has done a number of sitcoms and dramas.

Maybe the show can feature a day in the life of the beautiful couple and how they do a balancing act with their marriage, parenting and career. Hopefully it won't be another show a la "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," or, to be blunt about it, "The Out of Reach and Ostentatious."

Viewers must not feel like they are missing out on a lot and feel compelled to make a living like the stars in order to have a life. All the trappings of fame and fortune are quite a sight to behold but it should not be all you're holding on to.

Could it be true that romance is brewing between **Kris Aquino** and **Troy Montero**? If so, I see nothing wrong with that. But if they happen to be just such good friends, who knows if love can blossom from their closeness? It's been a while since the all-heart Kris has been in love. Knowing her, she'll be wearing her heart on her sleeve. Game *ka na ba, Kumareng* Kristeta?

Is **Lana Asanin** really going steady with **Giancarlo Sotto**, the *unico hijo* of Sen. **Tito Sotto** and **Helen Gamboa**? Will the spunky balikbayan charmer make the seemingly shy Giancarlo more outspoken and free-spirited like her?

The **Dingdong Dantes** camp insists that his newest screen partner, **Tanya Garcia**, has a striking resemblance to his real (?) girlfriend, **Chinna Jocson**. Or is it the other way around?

So much the better for Dingdong so it would be easier for him to get into character. A case of art imitating heart?

'Tuhog'

WHEN I accepted to do the weekly movie review for "Magandang Umaga Bayan" on ABS-CBN 2, I was told I should write it in Tagalog. At first, I was wary if I could really come up with a sensible work in the vernacular. Of course, I speak Tagalog fluently but it's a different thing to think in English and write in Tagalog. There are some nuances of language that just can't be translated no matter how many dictionaries you consult. And a TV script should be more animated than a column item.

So what I did was just to write everything that came to my mind and tugged at my heart after watching the video copy of the critically-acclaimed and controversial film "Tuhog."

My "M.U.B." segment will soon carry "Dollywood," too, as its title. Please feel free to e-mail me your comments. Thanks for Dollywooding with me! (Special thanks to my ever dependable twin friend **Chiqui LLoret** for being there during the 11th hour, and to *mon tres cheri* Ludwig G. for inspiring me to write not just in Tagalog, English and French but in a language only he knows.)

FOR feedback E-mail luvludg@hotmail.com,, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

DELL™
Optiplex GX50
Simple Task Computing in Managed Environments
Call us today to speak with an expert about the desktop that's right for you.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

TUESDAY,
MARCH 26, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

The Outback Special®
345
OUTBACK
RESTAURANT

FPI calls for RP withdrawal from Cairns

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries is pushing for the Philippines' immediate withdrawal from the Cairns Group saying that the country has sacrificed too much and benefited too little in its 16-year membership in the agriculture trade lobby group.

In a statement, the FPI said: "We have not taken advantage of our membership in the Cairns Group and this is eroding the trust of our local agricultural and industrial producers in the global trading system."

The FPI said the Philippines and other developing countries had given too many concessions to developed countries that had, however, maintained their high tariffs, import quotas and subsidies to their farmers.

The Philippines joined 13 other countries in forming a coalition of agriculture exporting countries in 1986, a few weeks before the start of the Uruguay Round of negotiations of the WTO (then called the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade). The coalition aims to provide a third lobby group in agriculture trade talks and to prevent the US and Europe from dominating these discussions on this sector.

The FPI said the Cairns Group's policies were inconsistent as some of its members, notably Australia, imposed non-tariff barriers that prevented Philippine exports from taking advantage of the benefits of a free trade regime.

The FPI cited a study that showed that the Philippines incurred a trade deficit of over $4 billion with its trading partners in the Cairns Group from 1980 to 1999. Australia, the head of Cairns Group and the largest and most profitable farm producer in the world, accounted for half of the amount.

The group cited as an example Australia's imposition of non-trade barriers on Philippine exports of tropical fruits in the form of unreasonably rigid sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures.

The study, commissioned by the Sugar Alliance of the Philippines, concluded that Australia failed to acknowledge the national treatment principle under the WTO when it discriminated against Philippine exports.

Aside from this, Australia and other Cairns Group members did not back the Philippines in its battle to get fair treatment for its canned tuna exports to Europe.

The FPI questioned Australia's credibility as the leader of the group and urged Malacañang to extricate from the group to allow greater "self-determination" in promoting agricultural exports and freedom from undue pressure from the group on trade issues.

GMA favors imposition of tariff on cement

By Donna Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said she was in favor of imposing tariff on imported cement, as local manufacturers demanded.

The President said she agreed with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II that the local cement industry needed protection.

Roxas had imposed a provisional tariff of P20.60 per bag on imported cement, but the Tariff Commission wanted to abolish it.

"Frankly speaking, based on how I see the cement industry and my talks with the housing sector, I do not agree with the recommendation of the Tariff Commission. So I support (Secretary) Mar Roxas' decision on this," Ms Macapagal said in her radio program yesterday.

She said the plight of local cement manufacturers proved the need for "safety nets" in the face of trade globalization.

The President said Roxas would have to prevent layoffs in the cement industry, which local manufacturers claimed would become inevitable unless tariffs were imposed.

At the same time, she ordered Roxas to make sure that the tariffs would not jack up cement prices or lead to any shortage.

She said Roxas had promised to get the manufacturers to bring out their cement to prevent supply shortfall that might arise from hoarding by certain groups.

"That's the challenge he faces and Mar said he can do it," the President said.

Senate President Pro-tempore Manuel Villar, for his part, expressed support for the Tariff Commission's decision recommending the scrapping of tariff on imported cement.

Villar noted that the recommendation of the commission was in response to "the need to lower the cost of cement as it is a vital component of infrastructure projects needed for the country's development."

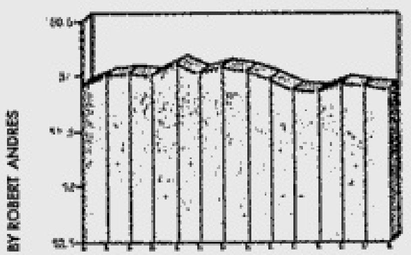
The Tariff Commission last week ruled against the imposition of definitive general safeguard measures against cement imports as it rebuffed the DTI's findings that imported cement was hurting the local industry.

The commission refused to curtail imports, saying they protect consumers by providing "competitive discipline to possible abuse of the market" by the Big Three cement firms (Cemex, Holderbank and Blue Circle-LaFarge), which control 89 percent of domestic production. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.12 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 25, 2002

¥133.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 25, 2002

GOLD: $296.20/297.40
per ounce Hong Kong, March 25, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

SHARES ended a shade lower yesterday to snap a six-day winning streak as volume thinned further due to the shortened trading week ahead of the Easter holiday.

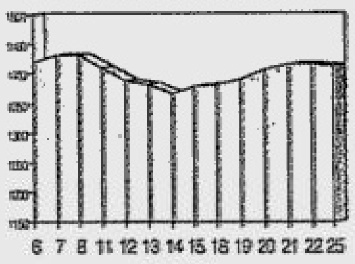
Traders said the market was likely to be confined in a tight range and in low turnover until Wednesday. The government has declared Thursday and Friday as national holidays.

The 33-share composite index slid 4.44 points or 0.31 percent to end at 1,413.31 points. The index remained within a narrow 10-point range during the session.

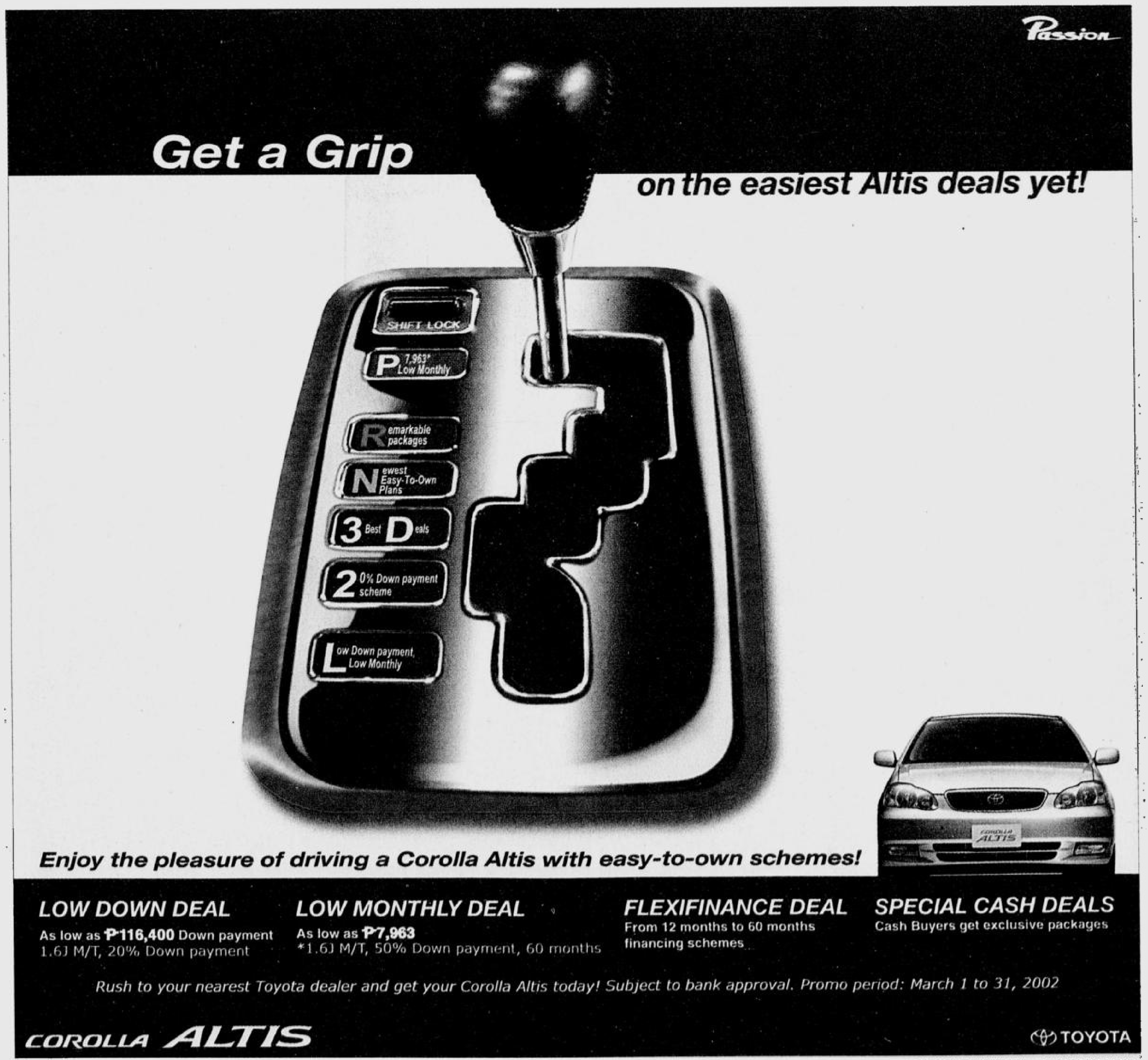
Ayala Corp. and BPI are two of the Top 4 heaviest weighted stocks in the market.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. set the gloomy mood for the market, losing 10 centavos or 1.49 percent at P6.60. Its banking arm Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) also slid 50 centavos or 0.74 percent to end at P67.50. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)


Passion
Get a Grip
on the easiest Altis deals yet!
SHIFT LOCK
P 7,963* Low Monthly
Remarkable packages
Newest Easy-To-Own Plans
3 Best Deals
20% Down payment scheme
Low Down payment, Low Monthly
COROLLA ALTIS
Enjoy the pleasure of driving a Corolla Altis with easy-to-own schemes!
LOW DOWN DEAL
As low as ₱116,400 Down payment
1.6J M/T, 20% Down payment
LOW MONTHLY DEAL
As low as ₱7,963
*1.6J M/T, 50% Down payment, 60 months
FLEXIFINANCE DEAL
From 12 months to 60 months financing schemes
SPECIAL CASH DEALS
Cash Buyers get exclusive packages
Rush to your nearest Toyota dealer and get your Corolla Altis today! Subject to bank approval. Promo period: March 1 to 31, 2002
COROLLA ALTIS
TOYOTA

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1891 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1647 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7216 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 810-2222 / 810-7481 to 86 / 844-7944 / 844-8472 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9854 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-0771 / 6734 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-6040 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 119 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-6631 to 34 / 682-2684 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SHAW, INC. 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-8854 to 64

See flyers for details!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0736, Series of 2002

₱250-M PIER PROJECT

FilOil, ATI in joint venture talks with Australian firm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FILOIL Development and Management Corp. and Asian Terminals Inc. are in talks with Leighton International of Australia for a possible joint venture to build a P250-million pier in Cavite.

Filoil president Cirilo Martinez said in an interview that the Philippine National Oil Co. subsidiary would bring ATI and Leighton together after this week to start discussions on the project.

Under the plan, ATI and Leighton will put up the wharf while Filoil will provide and prepare the land. The pier project will cost about P250 million, said Martinez.

He said participating firms were expecting to finish the project by next year.

Martinez said in an earlier interview that a wharf in Rosario, Cavite, that could handle ro-ro (roll in, roll out) vessels would ease passenger and cargo traffic between Manila and the Cavite Export Processing Zone.

He said the 4-hectare terminal would cut down travel time between Manila and the economic zone to 15 to 30 minutes.

The Filoil chief also said the project would bring momentum to the development of the firm's 118-hectare Rosario property worth about P1.5 billion. Filoil is developing its property in phases.

In January, President Macapagal-Arroyo led the inauguration of Filoil's P90-million socialized housing project.

This project covered 5 hectares and is now benefiting 500 families.

"These families had been squatters on our lands for as long as two decades," Martinez said. "But we made sure that only such residents as verified qualified as beneficiaries."

He explained that each 40-square-meter unit of the apartment-type housing project cost a total of P180,000. The beneficiaries will have to pay the amount in 25 years.

GOINGS-ON

Social responsibility

CONTROL Risks Philippines, a subsidiary of Control Risks Group, a leading international business risk consultancy firm based in the UK, is introducing a new management tool designed to help companies understand and reap the benefits from corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the Philippines.

The company said that control risks services were designed to help companies integrate CSR into management systems to "add significant and quantifiable value to bottom lines."

The new management tool was a product of the company's analyses and studies based on actual business experiences. Control Risks Philippines has concluded that a majority of business risks in the country were results of poor stakeholder management.

Flights to Butuan City

CEBU Pacific has started flying thrice weekly to Butuan City from Manila on March 23 and will fly daily by March 31.

Flights are scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, departing at 10:00 a.m. from Manila and 12:05 p.m. from Butuan City.

"These flights will service the growing traffic of businessmen who travel to the Caraga region, a hub of industrial activity. Butuan is the trading center of the region and known for being one of the top producers of rice in the country," said Manolo San Juan, Cebu Pacific's vice president for marketing.

San Juan said that Butuan City was also a jump-off point to other major destinations in Northern Mindanao such as Misamis Oriental and Surigao, including Siargao island, globally known as a major surfing destination.

March inflation seen at 3.5%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordination Council yesterday said the inflation in March would likely inch up to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent last month.

The DBCC, however, said that the plan to scale down the full-year inflation target from a range of 5 to 6 percent, to 4.5 to 5.5 percent would not be affected by the higher inflation forecast or by the recent increase in pump prices of petroleum products.

"It is very likely that we will revise the inflation target this year to 4.5 to 5.5 percent, and we will do that in the next DBCC meeting in April," said Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas.

Gilbert Llanto, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the expected slight increase in the March inflation was "negligible."

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shares DBCC's March inflation target but certain analysts said the rate should be higher at 3.6 percent, given the improving economic situation.

The DBCC now sets the government's inflation forecast in consultation with the BSP, which uses the target as a benchmark for its monetary policy decisions.

"The inflation forecast for March supports the 5- to 6-percent inflation target. It is still consistent with the plan of the DBCC to revise the full-year outlook to 4.5 to 5.5 percent," said Llanto.

Llanto pointed out that food prices, the biggest component of the consumer price index, remained stable this month.

He said that the crude oil price assumption of $20.56 per barrel used by the inter-agency DBCC remained valid.

"The impact of the recent oil price increase should be minimal because our dependence on imported crude oil has gone down. Even Opec recognizes that it cannot unduly raise world prices because of independent players like Russia," said Canlas.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries tried to artificially push oil prices up by cutting the production of its members.

Canlas said the threats of El Niño might not happen until late this year or early next year. "The El Niño phenomenon is not a factor in this year's inflation, he noted.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an earlier interview that the Monetary Board had adopted a neutral position on monetary policies after cutting overnight rates three times this year to a 10-year low of 7 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

While not ruling out any further cuts in the policy rates or in other areas like the reserve requirements on banks, Buenaventura said any major policy decisions would have to be carefully weighed in relation to inflation in the next six to 12 months.

The BSP governor also said that monetary authorities would try to delay plans to start raising the overnight rates as a consequence of the possible hike in the US interest rates by the middle of the year.

"The favorable inflation rate gives us the flexibility to delay any hike in interest rates," said Buenaventura.

BCDA OFFICIALS' BRIEFING

Newly appointed BCDA chair Florencio Padernal (second from left) and president and CEO Rufo Colayco (third from left) recently visited Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga (fourth from left) to discuss plans on the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Officials of the BCDA and Taguig City vowed greater cooperation and closer coordination in putting up key infrastructure projects in the Global City.

Exchange OKs Highlands listing

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the public listing on April 23 of Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc., a spin-off property unit of leisure estate firm Belle Corp.

A circular issued by the PSE to brokers yesterday said the initial public offering of 20 percent of Highland Prime's total equity would be held from April 8 to 15. It will be the second local company to sell shares to the public this year and the third to list on the exchange.

Cebu-based Salcon Power Corp., the first to hold an IPO this year, will list on April 2. The first company to debut on the exchange, however, was Citystate Savings Bank, which listed its shares last January but had its IPO in December last year.

Highlands Prime will list on the second board of the PSE, which is devoted to companies with authorized capital of P100 million to P399 million. (A capital stock above P400 million qualifies a company for listing on the main board). The second board also requires a minimum pre-tax profit of P5 million per year.

The company will sell 93.9 million primary shares out of about 2.2 billion total shares at P2.13 per share, to raise P193 million in fresh funds for its capital expenditures.

Some 355.35 million secondary shares will be sold to the public, allowing parent firm Belle to raise a net of P713 million to boost debt-reduction efforts. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Waterfront forms hotel management subsidiary

IN A BID to diversify its revenue stream, hotel and casino operator Waterfront Philippines Inc. is investing some P200 million to put up a new subsidiary that will offer hotel management services.

In a news briefing yesterday, Waterfront vice president for sales and marketing Rexlon Gatchalian said the company was incorporating a new company—Waterfront Management Corp.—that would offer an "All-Filipino but globally competitive hotel management firm."

Waterfront's new unit will compete with big foreign hotel management chains operating in the country, including Century International, Marriott, Westin, Intercontinental, Midtown, Shangri-La, Mandarin, Marco Polo and the Peninsula.

Gatchalian told reporters the new venture was a "vote of confidence" on local talents, noting that Filipinos were now running big hotel chains in Shanghai, Bangkok and other destinations abroad.

"Even abroad, Filipinos are running the show," he said. "We still have to get a board resolution for this new subsidiary, but its incorporation is now under process at the Securities and Exchange Commission," he said.

He said Waterfront believed the new venture would take off well because it could offer high-quality services at a lower cost to local property owners as compared to hiring foreign management firms that were being run by expatriates. *Doris C. Dumlao*

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Union Bank of the Philippines** approved the declaration of a regular cash dividend of 20 centavos and a special 20th anniversary cash divided of the same amount on stockholdings as of Dec. 31, 2001 payable on the retained earnings as of Dec. 31, 1997.

* * *

MANILA Jockey Club, Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 9 a.m., at its principal office. The record date is March 26.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings, Inc.**, acquired an additional 1 million shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.90 per share on March 21.

* * *

GLOBAL Business Bank Inc. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting to May 22, 4 p.m.

* * *

JOSE Manuel Lopa was elected director of **Central Azucarera de Tarlac** replacing Teresita Lopa who resigned due to health conditions.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had received a letter of resignation [illegible] Valdez effective at the close of business hours on March 19.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' [illegible] April 17, 9:30 a.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine Floor, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati City. The record date is fixed on March 1

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. will hold it's annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 3 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club, Makati City. The record date is April 1.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, March 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68	67	67.5	288,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38	35.5	38	1,404,100
First E-Bank Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	110,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44	44	44	44	11,200
Philippine National Bank	68	68	68	68	700
Phil. Savings Bank	27	28.5	26.5	28.5	27,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	4,500
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	9,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	1,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	500,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	4,130
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.92	1	0.92	1	90,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35	17,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	980,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	785	800	780	800	113,450
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	1,500,000
Piltel	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	1,070,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	525	530	525	530	50,180
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	9,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	31	30.5	30.5	74,700
Manila Electric Co. B	47	47	46.5	46.5	342,800
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	2,343,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	11,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.48	271,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	130,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	580,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	1,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	22.75	23	22.75	23	37,700
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	924,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	89,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	7,179,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.7	10.25	9.7	10.25	51,100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	3,600,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	710,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	270,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.105	1,030,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	1,900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	97,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	,0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	86,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	2,680,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	800,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Ionics Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	2,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	40,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.63	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	5,840,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.2	55,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.08	0.09	0.075	0.075	9,200,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	8,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	7,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	460,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	600,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	36	36	35	35.5	154,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	1,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	770	795	770	795	2,390
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	6,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	23,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	7,532,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	2,310,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,210,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.34	2.34	349,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	1,100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	4,292,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,100,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	152,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	220,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	106,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	9,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	2,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	620,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000

CURRENCIES

March 25, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139471	1.000000	51.1040
Japan	Yen	0.008581	0.007531	0.3849
United Kingdom	Pound	1.624772	1.425900	72.8692
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146097	0.128215	6.5523
Switzerland	Franc	0.684161	0.600420	30.6839
Canada	Dollar	0.722694	0.634236	32.4120
Singapore	Dollar	0.621643	0.545554	27.8800
Australia	Dollar	0.607070	0.532765	27.2264
Bahrain	Dinar	3.022631	2.652661	135.5616
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303859	0.266667	13.6278
Brunei	Dollar	0.621643	0.545554	27.8800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000102	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.026273	0.023057	1.1783
UAE	Dirham	0.310237	0.272264	13.9138
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000758	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877600	44.8489
Brazil	Real	0.483646	0.424448	21.6910
[illegible]	Kroner	0.134531	0.118064	6.0335
[illegible]	Rupee	0.023398	0.020534	1.0494
[illegible]	Ringgit	0.299861	0.263158	13.4484
[illegible]	New Peso	0.125978	0.110558	5.6500
[illegible]	Dollar	0.500691	0 439406	22.4554
[illegible]	Kroner	0.129845	0.113952	5.8234
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019022	0.016694	0.8531
South Africa	Rand	0.099385	0.08722	4.4573
Sweden	Kroner	0.110957	0.097376	4.9763
Syria	Pound	0.022125	0.019417	0.9923
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032612	0.02862	1.4626
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001281	0.001124	0.0574

China's strength could jolt Japan out of lethargy

TOKYO—Economic challenge, regional rival, security threat: the prism through which Japan views China nearly three decades after normalizing ties is darkly tinted.

But some in Japan have begun to see a brighter facet—in China's emerging power may lie the salvation of a stagnant Japan.

Oft-frayed Sino-Japanese ties seem relatively calm these days as the two Asian neighbors prepare to commemorate the anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties in September 1972.

Few, however, deny that proximity, demography and dynamics of development are converging to ensure that coping with China, the world's seventh largest economy behind Japan's No. 2, is the biggest challenge Tokyo faces in coming decades.

"The foundation of Japan's postwar rolė has been its economic success and pre-eminent standing within the region," said a report by think tank Pacific Forum CSIS.

" . . . China's rise is not only a challenge to the structure of regional politics, but to Japan's national identity, too."

The challenge, however, just might be the jolt Japan needs to finally tackle the obstacles to economic reform and growth.

"It is true that Japan feels a sort of threat from seeing China catch up," said one Japanese trade official. "But for Japan, China's rapid economic development is a good wake-up call."

That view is gaining credence, even if it is often drowned out by complaints Beijing has used decades of Japanese aid money to boost its competitiveness and expand its military power.

"People in Japan are seeing the stimulus from China as actually very good for knocking people out of their defensive posture," said one foreign diplomatic analyst.

"They are realizing that 10 years down the road, Japan cannot still be protecting the same old sectors from Chinese competition and that Japan will be washed away if it isn't flexible."

The China solution

Seemingly trivial trade spats over leeks, mushrooms and "*tatami*" rushes, which soured Sino-Japanese economic ties last year, would appear to bode ill for future relations.

The two sides patched up the quarrel in December, but further feuds seem certain to flare, especially with Japanese firms boosting investment in China and importing cheap Chinese goods back home as a way to cut costs and boost profits.

Investment in China by Japanese firms posted its first rise in five years in the year to March 2001, and nearly 96 percent of those planning to spend more abroad over the next three years see China as their top target, according to a survey by the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro).

Such trends—which increasingly include not just Japanese sunset industries but more high-tech firms as well—have deepened Japanese fears that manufacturing is "hollowing out."

But the solution, trade experts say, is not protecting outmoded sectors but accelerating Japan's shift to higher value-added, new growth industries.

"We need to incorporate China's strengths into our economy," said Jetro chair Noboru Hatakeyama.

"The government should keep encouraging Japanese companies to shift from old areas to new areas . . . They have to keep changing to cope with Chinese pressure. That is good."

Japan's mature economy and an aging population set to shrink in coming decades leave Tokyo with little other choice, said Robert Feldman, Morgan Stanley's chief economist in Tokyo.

Reuters

MODEL Yasuko Niitsuma displays the soccer ball-shaped cameras developed by N.N.C. Co., during the Photo Expo 2002 in Tokyo. The official good, licensed by the Japan Football Association, will hit the market with a price tag of 2,980 Yen ($22) to coincide with the upcoming 2002 World Cup Korea/Japan. AP

Accenture name change shields firm from Andersen's troubles

LONDON—When Andersen Consulting announced last year it was changing its name to Accenture after splitting with accountants Arthur Andersen, it was widely lampooned for choosing a nonsensical name.

One year on, as Arthur Andersen fights for its life after seeing its reputation shattered because of its role in the Enron scandal, few doubt that the renaming was one of the smartest and most fortuitous in the history of rebranding.

Accenture, a leading management and technology consultancy, says the name implies an accent on the future. But it could not have guessed at the time what a difference shedding the Andersen name would make to its own.

Arthur Andersen is charged with shredding documents and destroying e-mails about the US energy giant Enron, which went bankrupt last year revealing shady accounting practices, and Andersen has lost several high-profile clients.

Had Accenture not rebranded itself, at an estimated cost of upwards of $100 million, it seems almost certain that some of the mud flying at Andersen would have stuck to its own reputation.

But after an intensive publicity campaign that has seen the Accenture name—complete with squiggle—splatted across newspaper adverts, airports, golf tournaments and elsewhere, Accenture appears to have succeeded in distancing itself from the Andersen name.

"They could have changed the name, and not spent so much money on it, in which case it wouldn't have established that name in the market and they would have been in a very difficult situation now," said John Williamson, a board director at Wolff Olins brand consultants in London.

"So whilst they had no crystal ball and could not have foreseen what has happened, nonetheless they made the right decision to invest a lot of money in the name change itself and create awareness for it and give it credibility in the market," he told AFP.

Ironically, Andersen Consulting apparently wanted to keep its name at the time, but was forced by an arbitrator to give it up in an acrimonious divorce that involved a long running legal battle.

"It was perfect timing," said one Accenture insider.

"When they did the split, the one sticking point had been that we had wanted to keep the Andersen Consulting name and brand.

"When we split, the arbitrator came down in our favor and Arthur Andersen had to pay us loads of money, so as a sop, we said OK you have the name—and thank God we did."

So it was probably worth the hassle of 6.5 million new business cards, new signs at its 100-plus offices around the world, not to mention the waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of Andersen-logo clothing subsequently given to charity in a much publicized gesture.

Accenture is keen to stress that it was always involved in a different type of work than Andersen anyway.

"The fact is that Arthur Andersen is obviously an audit firm and we're a consultancy firm, so we're in a completely different business," a spokesperson said.

"We were operating very separately from them before we changed our name," she added.

AFP

Indonesia wants less debt rescheduled

JAKARTA—Jakarta seeks to reschedule less than $5.5 billion in debt against widely held expectations of around $6 billion at its meeting with the Paris Club of official creditors next month, the finance minister said.

Finance Minister Boediono told Reuters on Monday that he was very optimistic the creditors would agree to reschedule the debt maturing between April 2002 and December 2003, a move seen as critical to help ease a punitive government debt burden and thus contain budget deficits this year and next.

Economists said the news could further boost Indonesia's rupiah currency, already riding a wave of strength in recent weeks.

"Less than $5.5 billion," Boediono said when asked about the amount of foreign debt the government is seeking to reschedule at the April meeting.

"I am very optimistic," he said.

Boediono had just come back from several days of foreign travel in a bid to lobby creditors about the need for Jakarta to reschedule the debt, part of around $140 billion total for Indonesia.

Rupiah seen stronger

The rupiah, which on Monday touched its strongest level since October last year amid hopes of investment-related dollar inflows, should strengthen further this week on optimism over the Paris Club meeting, analysts said.

The rupiah on Monday pushed through the psychologically 9,800-per-dollar level to a 9,755 five-month high with dollar sales spotted from the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency (Ibra) and other local players.

Jakarta had said US investment house Farallon Capital Management, winning bidder for a 51-percent stake in Bank Central Asia (BCA), would pay for 30 percent of the bank on March 28.

That would mean a payment of about $318 million or 3.1 trillion rupiah based on the $531 million total price Farallon is paying for the 51-percent stake.

The Farallon payment was seen as having relatively significant impact on the rupiah, considering average daily trading on the dollar/rupiah market currently standing at only around $200 million.

"The payment plus the optimism surrounding the Paris Club meeting should boost the rupiah to soon break 9,700 this week. I am optimistic it could later on break 9,600 and test (the) 9,500 level," said economist Fauzi Ichsan of Standard Chartered Bank in Jakarta.

Ichsan forecast the rupiah to further strengthen to 9,200 by year-end.

A Reuters' poll of nine research houses in January showed that the currency was forecast to hover around 10,435 against the dollar by the middle of 2002 and strengthen to 9,995 by year-end. The currency was quoted at around 10,400 when the poll was done.

Reuters

Asian banks poor at promoting online banking–IDC

SINGAPORE—Consumers in the Asia-Pacific region are keen to do their banking online but are hindered by the lack of support from banks, a study released Monday by an industry research group showed.

An International Data Corp. (IDC) survey of six economies—China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Australia—showed respondents would increase their online financial transactions if the banks provided more information.

"In all surveyed countries, respondents indicated a strong desire for more education and said they would increase online activity as a result," IDC said.

"They feel banks have done a poor job on education, convincing them Internet banking is safe, and making sites easy to use," the study said.

If Asian banks want to expand their base of Internet clients, they must also offer rewards as the current group of potential online customers is not Internet-savvy.

"Incentives are also lacking, which is a serious problem because many banks have already tapped their supply of early adopters," IDC said.

"The next wave of customers will not be as easy to pull online, and incentives must play a part," it said.

Results from the survey also showed that age and income assumptions are no longer valid.

AFP

UNIONBANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING AND CASH DIVIDEND DECLARATION

Dear Stockholders:

March 22, 2002

Please be informed that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of UnionBank of the Phillippines (UBP) is on **May 24, 2002**, Friday, at 4:00 p.m. The record date for stockholders entitled to vote at said meeting is on April 10, 2002 as approved by the Board at its meeting held on March 22, 2002.

Closing of books will be from **April 25, 2002** to **May 23, 2002** to enable the Stock and Transfer Agent to prepare and validate stockholders who are entitled to vote at said meeting.

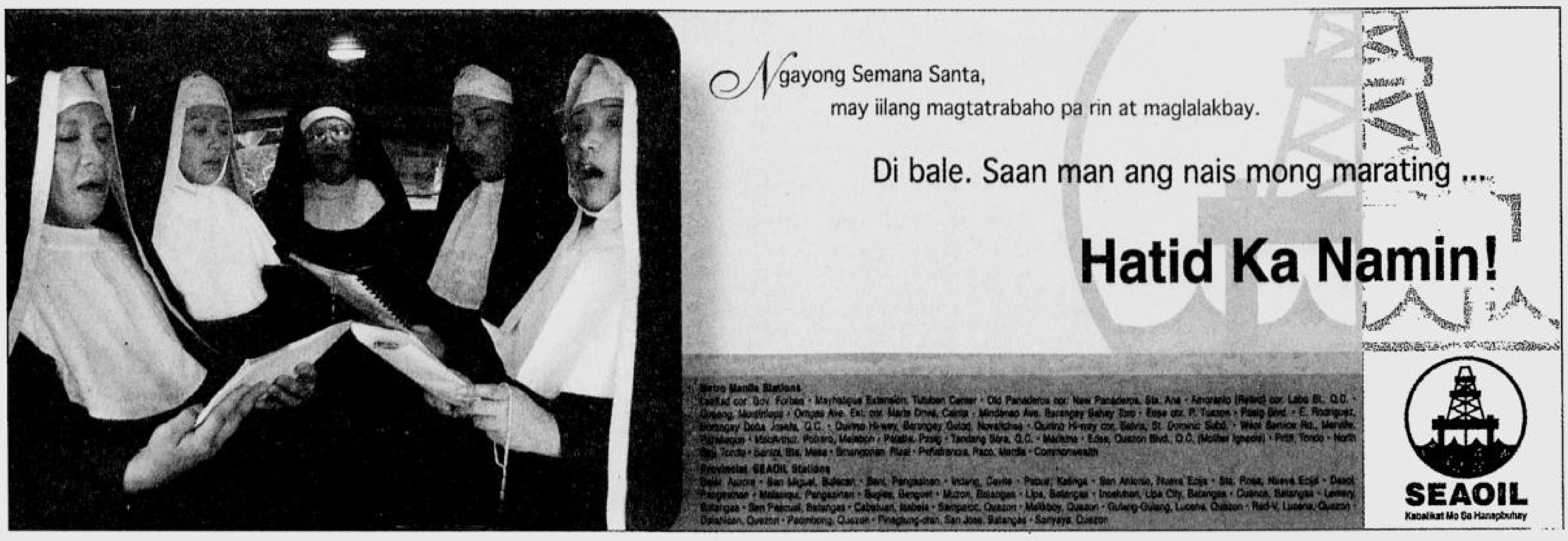
Likewise, the Board also approved at said meeting the DECLARATION OF CASH DIVIDEND of twenty centavos (P0.20) per share as regular cash dividend and a special 20th Anniversary cash dividend also in the amount of twenty centavos (P0.20) based on stockholdings of the Bank as of December 31, 2001 which shall be payable from the retained earnings of the Bank as of December 31, 1997. The total cash dividend for declaration shall be equivalent to the amount P220,498,385.60 (computed at P0.40 centavos per share) out of total number of issued shares in UBP of 551,245,964 as of December 31, 2001.

Record and payment dates for said cash dividend declarations shall be set upon confirmation/approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Securities and Exchange Commission and clearances from Philippine Stock Exchange.

For your information. Thank You.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ATTY. FE T. BECINA-MACALINO
Corporate Secretary



Ngayong Semana Santa,
may iilang magtatrabaho pa rin at maglalakbay.
Di bale. Saan man ang nais mong marating ....
Hatid Ka Namin!
Metro Manila Stations
Provincial SEAOIL Stations
SEAOIL
Kabalikat Mo Sa Hanapbuhay

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

CoQ10 adds more life to life

THE MOST important muscle in our body is the heart. And for muscles to work effectively, adequate energy must be produced by our cells. To help our cells produce this energy, a natural fat soluble substance found in every cell of our body known as Coenzyme Q10 is needed. This substance is particularly concentrated in cells with high energy requirements such as the heart and muscle cells. Small amounts of it can be taken from selected food items and the body can produce CoQ10 naturally by undergoing a complex multi-stage process involving eight vitamins and several trace elements.CoQ10 is essential to life because it facilitates the production of energy in little cellular units called mitochondria. This energy produced by our cells is utilized for normal bodily functions. One major function is the production of energy to keep our hearts beating. That is why high levels of this substance are present in heart cells. Without CoQ10, energy can never be produced; without energy, life can never exist. Aside from being a cellular energizer, CoQ10 protects LDL cholesterol from being oxidized. LDL cholesterol, once oxidized, are known to clog our arteries, constricting blood flow to the heart, and causing various heart and health complications. This action has made CoQ10 popular as an antioxidant and a preventive agent for heart diseases.

It has been documented that this substance declines as we age, leading to CoQ10 deficiency. Since CoQ10 is syllogistic to energy, a deficiency of this substance leads to a deficiency of energy as well. International clinical studies have concluded a direct relationship between CoQ10 deficiency and the severity of heart diseases. When the heart lacks the power to pump blood throughout the body, congestive heart failure develops, creating an interrelated chain of health problems.

In recent years, various products worldwide have been developed to address the increasing need for CoQ10 supplementation. Even healthy adults supplement with this substance to maintain their vitality and support their active lifestyles. Hence, there is no need to wait for the development of age-related health problems because supplementing with CoQ10 daily can already bring benefits to life. CoQ10 is a factor in maintaining adequate energy levels as well as protecting our cells from oxidative damage. CoQ10 is safe since it is all-natural, has been regarded by nutrition experts as the "fountain of youth" because it is capable of restoring vitality to adults while protecting bodies from the onslaught of degenerative diseases.

Pascual Laboratories manufactures its own CoQ10 product, bringing this remarkable substance within reach to the Filipino consumer. Addlife CoQ10 is 30 mg of pure coenzyme Q10 in capsule form. It is available over-the-counter in Mercury Drug outlets and other drug stores. Call in your inquiries at 920-1911, or e-mail addlifecoq10@mail.com.

Marriage Encounter
MARCH 8-10 2002
Mirador Jesuit Villa, Baguio City

ROL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IN BAGUIO
The Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) marriage encounter series of Tuklasan Foundation successfully conducted another weekend seminar in Baguio City last March 8 to 10. This was held at the Mirador Jesuit Villa. The members of the ecclesial team were Rev. Fr. Jess V. Fernandez, SJ, Rudy and Menie Ledesma, and Fred and Judith Bugaoisan.

KGI
Economic Briefing
Year 2002: Gearing Up For Growth

1ST CHINATRUST-KGI ECONOMIC BRIEFING
Asian Development Bank executive director Cayetano Paderangga, Jr. (right) answers questions during the first Chinatrust-KGI economic briefing at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The briefing, titled 'Year 2002: Gearing Up for Growth', shared forecasts on the Philippine and regional economies, Other topics discussed during the meeting were 'Betting on Recovery: Prospects of the Philippine Stock Market for 2002' and 'A Perspective on Philippine and Regional Economies'. Chinatrust Philippines is a subsidiary of Chinatrust Commercial Bank, the most profitable commercial bank in Taiwan. KGI Securities (Phils.) Inc. is a member firm of the Philippine Stock Exchange and a subsidiary of KGI, a pan-Asian financial services group serving a worldwide clientele. Also shown is (from left) Chinatrust Philippines senior vice president and head of treasury Roland Avante, Philippine national treasurer Sergio G. Edeza and KGI Securities Asia Pacific region chief financial officer Ricky Yip.

Asiaco supports Buy Pinoy movement

IN RESPONSE to the challenge of boosting the local economy through the Buy Pinoy movement, Asiaco Enterprises International Corp., a pioneer and leader in wire basket manufacturing in the country, makes available locally designed and manufactured kitchen and room organizers.

According to Richard Lumagui, the company's marketing manager, these products are fully manufactured in the Philippines by Asiaco's highly skilled and consistently trained workers, and are designed for organizing kitchen and room closets, especially those with limited space.

"It fits the simple yet classy lifestyle of today's homeowners and interior designers with impeccable taste," Lumagui added.

He said these pullout wire baskets come in two models—the Classic which is powder-coated, and Prestige, the stainless steel variant—and are available in five designs to help maximize limited spaces for the various kitchen utensils and implements. Asiaco also manufactures wall-mounted accessories, either powder coated or stainless steel, for that well-organized kitchen.

As proof of the company's commitment to provide world-class and innovative product lines, Asiaco has recently passed the rigid ISO 9002 quality certification standard from TUV Service GMBH, one of the most credible certification bodies based in Munich, Germany.

As part of its quality service to the public, Asiaco is offering free technical advice on kitchen and room designs through its customer hotline 744-1556 or 755-1560. Ask for Kris.

MITEEAA HOMECOMING
The Mapua Institute of Technology Electrical Engineering Alumni Association (Miteeaa) board of directors and homecoming and reunion committee met recently in connection with the association's 6th annual homecoming and reunion to be held on May 3 at the Metropolitan Club in Makati City. Shown are (from left, clockwise, Ivan Velez, president; Ronald Santiago, secretary; Art Cenal, Rico de la Cruz, Eduardo de la Torre, and Emmanuel Rivera, directors; Lino Pangan, first vice president; Efren Dacanay, business manager; Menandro Lim, co-chair, physical arrangement committee, and Bobby Agoncillo, second vice president.

Maybank launches high-yield ADDvantage

MAYBANK Philippines recently launched two new products that promise bigger returns for only a small investment.

One is the Maybank ADDvantage Fixed Time Deposit, which offers account holders a fixed interest rate of 11 percent on at least P25,000 opening balance for a period of five years. Investment is tax-free, unless preterminated.

The other is Maybank ADDvantage Flex, a tax-free five-year time deposit product but with flexible interest rates of not lower than 8 percent to not higher than 12 percent reviewed every 90 days based on the 91-day Treasury Bill rate. Initial deposit required is at least P25,000.

Aside from offering the market higher yields, these two big-interest products are indications of Maybank's commitment to provide the banking public with value-added products and services relevant to their constantly evolving needs.

Maybank Philippines is a member of the Maybank Group, Malaysia's largest bank. Backed by over $39 billion in assets and years of banking experience, Maybank has an extensive network of over 50 branches nationwide, and is present in over 13 countries worldwide. In 2000, Maybank had introduced the Inter-Country ATM Card to the market, allowing accounts to be accessed through over 800 automated teller machines not only in the Philippines, but also in Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei.

Inquiries on the ADDvantage 5-year Time Deposit and other services can be made at the nearest Maybank branch, or by calling the Maybank consumer banking division at 521-7451.

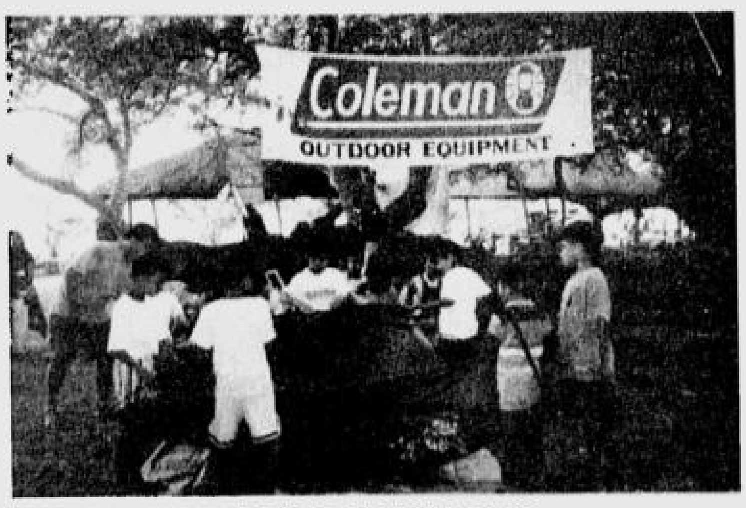
ATENEO'S BPI SCIENCE AWARDEES
John Matthew Ng (BS Computer Science), Paul Dominic Olinares (BS Chemistry) and Adrian Wendil Serohijos (BS Physics) are this year's BPI Science Awards recipients from the Ateneo de Manila University. They recently received their awards in ceremonies held at the University's Escaler Hall, science education complex in Quezon City. Shown, from left, are Dr. Fabian Dayrit, school of science and engineering dean; Veronica Tapia-Merk, BPI Corporate Communications vice president and BPI Foundation executive director; Jaime Zobel de Ayala, BPI chair; Ng; Olinares; Serohijos; Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, AdMU president, and Dr. Ana Miren Intal, vice president for Loyola Schools.

NESTLE PHILIPPINES IN
PULILAN FACTORY NPWU

NESTLE, PULILAN UNION SIGN CBA
Nestle Philippine Inc. and the Nestle Pulilan Workers Union (NPWU) recently signed a new collective bargaining agreement. Under the CBA, employees will be given P75,000 worth of financial assistance and an industrial peace incentive of P25,000. Union members will also receive an additional P1,250 to their salary every month on the second year of the CBA period. Another P1,250 will be granted per month to the employees on the third year. Shown are Nestle chair and CEO Juan B. Santos (left) and NPWU president Chat dela Cruz (center) with union members after the CBA signing.

VAMSLER PHILIPPINES, INC.
BETTER HEALTH FOR BETTER TOMORROW
8th ANNUAL NATIONAL SALES CONFERENCE
UNIFIED MISSION...FORTITUDE
ACTION...VICTORY&REALIZATION..!
MATINA APLAYA, DAVAO CITY-FEB 2-5, 2002

VAMSLER'S 8TH SALES CONFAB
Vamsler Philippines Inc., a national pharmaceutical company, recently held its 8th annual national sales conference recently in Davao City. Led by Rudy Roberto, marketing manager and Vinia de Guzman, general manager, the affair was highlighted with marketing plan presentations, and culminated with the awarding of recognition to outstanding performers. Top performance awardees were Mark Angelo Coz (PSR of the year) and Corazon Marasigan (DM of the year).



COLEMAN SUPPORTS SNACK 2002
For the 4th straight year, Coleman Outdoor Equipment sponsors the Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids (Snack 2002) for kids aged 7 to 13, from April 8 to 13 at the Taal Lake Yacht Club, Talisay, Batangas. The pioneering outdoor camp offers sailing, mountaineering, archery, gymnastics, hand-building pottery, tie-dyeing, photography, taekwondo, acting, a visit to a plant nursery and the Lubid team-building games. Other nature grants come from Purefoods, Konica, Standard Insurance, LA Gear, Conquer Mountaineering Equipment, Ascof Syrup for Kids, Sandugo Sandals, 88.3 Citylite, 105.1 Crossover, Joey@92.3, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Call camp director Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801, 724-1762, and 726-7164.

BITS Clips

Adamson graduation today

A FORMER Ambassador of Greece to Japan, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, and a Manila Representative will address today, March 26, the 64th commencement exercises of Adamson University at the PICC Plenary Hall in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Retired Ambassador George A. Sioris will be conferred Doctor of Humanities honoris causa after his morning speech. Rep. Joey D. Hizon (5th District, Manila) will speak in the afternoon.

Banton High reunion at Easter

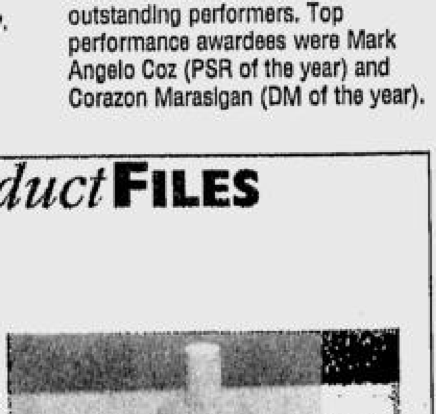
GRADUATES of Banton High School Class 1952 will hold their golden anniversary homecoming reunion at Banton, Romblon on Easter Sunday, March 31. This will be highlighted by a Mass in the morning, to be followed by a "Kamayan Lunch" at the Banton High School grounds. For particulars, call Dodong Festin at 646-1559 and 817-4590, or Dining Fabie at 872-5383.

Plai 1st regional confab

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc. (Plai) will hold its first regional conference for the year on the theme "Transformative Leadership: A Formula for Professionalism and Excellence in Librarianship" from April 3 to 5 at the Skyrise Hotel on 18 Dominican Road, near the Grotto of Lourdes, Baguio City. For details, call Elnora L. Conti at 526-8295, fax 525-0432; Nora J. Claravall at fax (074) 422281, or Emma Rey at 931-5864.

Product FILES

Gentle on the skin



GALDERMA'S Cetaphil now comes in two variants—cleansers for the face and bars for the body. Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleansers and Gentle Cleansing Bars are especially formulated for dry, sensitive skin so it doesn't irritate the way regular soaps do. Both products will not strip the skin of its natural protective barrier, or disturb its natural pH balance. Recommended by most dermatologists, Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleansers and Cleansing Bars are fragrance-free and non-comedogenic, making them an excellent choice for daily skin cleansing.

REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Pangilinan, Zubiri, Defensor vow to solve homelessness

By Tessa R. Salazar

A ROOF above every one's heads.

Lawmakers and government officials took up the challenge of providing housing for the homeless to the construction sector during the World Building Expo at the World Trade Center earlier this month.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Rep. Miguel Zubiri and Housing Secretary Mike Defensor vowed to help fast-track and support the Department of Housing bill in their respective turfs amid rumors that it would cause more jobless government employees in the housing sector and jeopardize the Pag-Ibig fund.

Commitment

Pangilinan, the Senate committee chair on housing and urban development, said he is committed toward the solution to the problem of homelessness through proper legislation. He added that laws must effectively address the housing needs of the low-income sector of society. He said that those who need shelter most are the ones who have least access to housing programs and financing. Pangilinan stressed that this could be solved through the Department of Housing bill, which he vowed to help fast-track.

Zubiri, Pangilinan's counterpart in Congress, also vowed to support the cause of creating a single department to act as a centralized body that would streamline bureaucracy. He allayed fears that the Pag-Ibig fund would be used.

64 allied industries

Defensor asked the building and construction sector to help Filipinos realize the ultimate dream of owning a house. He called on the construction industry to help propel the economy.

He also added that building a house would benefit 64 allied industries—from nuts and bolts manufacturers, to paints and wood suppliers—as well as boost the sales of appliances and increase employment.

Among the developing countries in the world, the Philippines has one of the highest housing needs, estimated at 3.6-million units from 2001 to 2004. The present administration has targeted one million houses constructed for the next three years.

Housing backlog

Pangilinan cited that the current estimates from the housing backlog stood at 4.5-million homeless families. Two-thirds, or 75 percent, of these families squat on government lands in the country's congested urban centers. To address this backlog within a period of 15 to 20 years, he said, would require production of houses at a rate of at least 400,000 to 500,000 units every year. "For a housing unit to be within reach of the Filipino wage earner, it has to be priced at not more than P500,000," he said.

This would require an annual government funding of P90 to 100 billion just to address this backlog.

He cited the current administration's budgetary constraints, the lack of technical know-how and the ineffective bureaucratic maze tasked to implement the comprehensive housing program.

"We all know that a major problem of housing is the lack of funds. I agree, but I must also reemphasize that the lack of resources, coupled by unsound priorities and misallocation of funds, mismanagement, ineffective bureaucratic red tape and graft—all these exacerbate the situation. An increase of funds is not sufficient. Equally important are proper allocation, access to funding, especially those who need financing most, and proper management," said Pangilinan.

GROUNDBREAKING RITES
Edge Properties Development Corp. recently laid the cornerstone for the development of Kawayan Cove, a boutique residential community located in Nasugbu, Batangas. From left are EPDC president Jose R. Puyat III, general manager Rona Torres-Tan and project manager Ave R. Yongoyong and Kawayan Cove sales director Bettina H. Pou. Just a two-hour drive from Makati, Kawayan Cove is a low-density enclave of prime lots nestled on the lush slopes around Bamboo Beach. It offers panoramic views of historic Fortune Island and the Western Batangas shoreline that's fast becoming the Philippine Riviera. Kawayan Cove also offers world-class amenities for exceptional living.

MARKETING AGREEMENT
The Fritz International Francisco Araneta Segovia & Co. Inc. (Fifasci) and the Victoria L. Araneta Properties Inc. recently signed a marketing contract with F.S. Dulalia Realty Co., R.F. Pula Co. and P.C. Tario Inc. for The Village Rainbow's End Subdivision, a 20-hectare completed, master-planned first-class AA subdivision with "nature-inspired architectural theme." The exclusively gated property is on a mountaintop overlooking the South China Sea. Considered the "Forbes Park" of Baguio, The Village boasts of commercial facilities such as business centers, a hangar, a helipad, a Japanese tea house and a fitness center. Seated from left are VLAP co-owner Danilo Santiago, Dulalia Realty president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and Fritz Segovia of Fifasci. Standing from left are Dulalia Realty VP Dexter Dulalia and VLAI co-owner Niño Ocampo.

Homes for young urban achievers

THE PHILIPPINES' largest real estate company recently launched a new firm focused on providing homes to upwardly mobile professionals and young entrepreneurs. This is in response to the needs of the middle-income segment.

LACSON

Community Innovations Inc., Ayala Land's new wholly owned subsidiary, is a logical step to complete the residential offerings of Ayala Land, according to Angela dV. Lacson, president of CII.

Says Lacson: "Starting with its dominant position in the high-end sector, ALI has also been able to build its presence in the mass-housing segment through Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. And now, to focus on a defined mid-market segment we call the young urban achievers, Community Innovations Inc. has been organized to make home ownership a rewarding experience for them."

Innovative product lines

She explains that Community Innovations has carefully studied the needs and aspirations of its target market composed of families of upcoming executives, professionals and entrepreneurs with total household earnings starting at P80,000 up to P170,000 a month. And it is determined to respond to their desired quality of life with innovative product lines, which will include subdivisions with lots and house-and-lot packages, townhouse clusters and condominiums. Completed residential products will be priced ranging from P3 million to P6 million—markedly lower than the price points of traditional ALI products.

Project location

To meet the needs of this segment with an estimated demand of 22,000 residential units in the next three years, Community Innovations has drawn up plans for neighborhoods that will satisfy this market. Its primary consideration, says Lacson, is that location of projects should be within the greater Metro Manila area so that commuting time to places of work, worship, shopping and education is maintained at a reasonable range.

Consequently, the location of the CII project will dictate the type of product it will offer. "In busy places like Makati, for instance, you would expect condominiums rather than house-and-lot units. House-and-lot packages would simply be beyond the reach of the target market in highly urbanized districts." In locations where land is not priced at such a premium, the company will offer townhouse clusters and residential subdivisions with lots and house-and-lot packages.

At the same time, the CII will benefit from the vast experience of its parent company, Ayala Land, in drawing viable, sustainable communities. "Our communities will be differentiated from the rest by the kind of planning, community development and after-sales service we will put into in," says Lacson. These encompass the development and maintenance of complete amenities as well as ensuring reliable supply of utilities and diligent performance of property management functions that assure sustained property values.

First project

The first CII project is Verdana Homes, a 25-hectare residential subdivision at the border of Las Piñas and Bacoor, Cavite. It is seven kilometers from the booming Ayala Alabang community.

Verdana, which will be launched this March, will feature lots from 200 sq. m to 398 sq. m with most of the lots in the 200-sq.-m range. House-and-lot packages offer floor areas from 122 sq. m to 203 sq. m. True to the California-inspired architecture, each house model has a balcony, porch and spacious garden areas. Lots will be offered starting at P1.5 million. House-and-lot models go from P3.7 to P6.6 million.

US buildings asbestos-free, says lawyer

MOST, if not all, of the buildings in the United States are free of asbestos. American health and environment lawyer Benjamin Kudo made this observation in a recent interview with Manila-based ANC television station.

Kudo also said millions of dollars have been paid to asbestos victims in the United States who were found to be suffering from asbestosis, mesothelioma and other lung-related illnesses.

These illnesses were traced to the victims' years of exposure to asbestos in paneling and other materials in their place of work such as factories and offices, as well as in their own homes.

"This is the reason asbestos is no longer used in buildings in the United States," Kudo stressed.

Class suit

Kudo was in town recently to meet with the Subic Asbestos Victims Association (Sava) that has filed a class suit against the former US Naval Base in Olongapo City. Together with former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., Kudo forms the core of Sava's legal advisers. The 4,000 Sava members, who used to work in the Subic shipyards, claim that the materials they worked with in the shipyards exposed them to asbestos resulting in their lung illnesses.

Kudo said "asbestos usually appears in thermal or insulation materials such as those used in ships, buildings like ceilings and wallings, and in fireproof draperies." He explained that "asbestos is a form of a rock that is melted down and blown with air. The asbestos rock is then transformed into fibers, which are thinner than hair and bonded together in different types of materials. When these building materials are bent, cut or punctured, the fibrous materials become airborne. In this form, the airborne fibers are called fibro-asbestos and this is when they become dangerous."

He said that fibro-asbestos is ingested by people around it by breathing in. "It then lodges itself into the lungs and can cause asbestosis, which is basically a respiratory disease, or in the worse case, lung cancer or mesothelioma, which is fatal. This is the reason asbestos is a very dangerous product that needs to be controlled and regulated, if not totally banned."

Health risk

Said Kudo: "While it's true that workers have a higher health risk due to their exposure to asbestos, these workers' families are also equally at risk. Fibro-asbestos get stuck in clothing so when these workers go home, their clothes carry asbestos fibers and family members run the risk of ingesting the fibers."

For this reason, Kudo said, the United States has imposed very rigid and strict regulations in the use of asbestos. "We confronted the problem back in the '70s and '80s when the United States had all these buildings built with asbestos materials. The issue boiled down to the cost of human life compared to the cost of having buildings checked and any present friable asbestos removed. Schools, hospitals and office buildings were checked by local departments of health for friable asbestos and when discovered to have it, were required by law to remove it and replace it with asbestos-free materials."

Ace Hardware named one of most admired US firms

ACE Hardware was named one of America's Most Admired Companies in Fortune Magazine's March 4 issue. It placed fifth in the wholesale diversified category with a 6.55 rating.

The ranking was based on eight attributes of reputation, where Ace ranked second in the quality of product and fourth in the use of corporate assets categories. It placed fifth in terms of innovativeness, employee talent, social responsibility, quality of management, financial soundness and long-term investment value.

Prestigious poll

America's Most Admired Companies is among Fortune Magazine's prestigious annual listings that cite various companies and business executives, including the Fortune 500 and Global 500 listings.

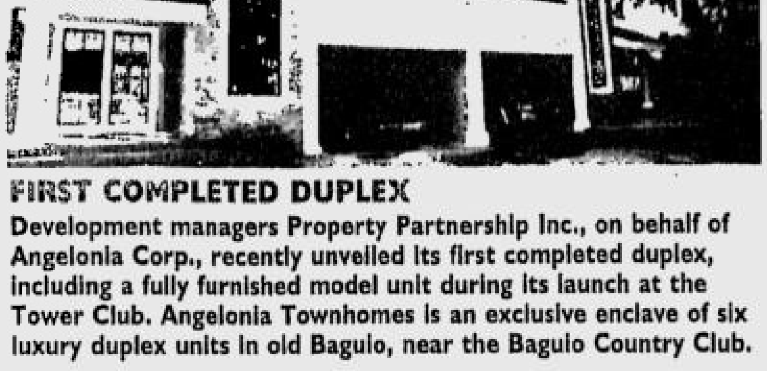
Ace Hardware began as a small chain of stores established by a group of Chicago area retailers in the early 1920s. It has since evolved into one of America's "helpful hardware" dealer-owned companies. It now has 5,100 stores in both the United States and other countries.

Shopping havens

In the Philippines, Ace Hardware stores can be found in various SM malls, where these are havens for DIY (do-it-yourself) enthusiasts. These are located at SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM City Cebu, SM City Bacoor, SM City Iloilo, SM City Pampanga and SM City Davao.

Ace Hardware outlets can also be found at the basement of SM Cubao and at the Festival Supermall.

These stores offer a wide array of products for home improvement, maintenance and repair. These include Ace brand quality tools and Ace paint with its up to seven-star quality and computerized color matching, which accurately creates the color you need in quality paint finish in just three minutes.



FIRST COMPLETED DUPLEX
Development managers Property Partnership Inc., on behalf of Angelonia Corp., recently unveiled its first completed duplex, including a fully furnished model unit during its launch at the Tower Club. Angelonia Townhomes is an exclusive enclave of six luxury duplex units in old Baguio, near the Baguio Country Club.

CLAYTON
AUTOMATIC VALVES
VERSATILITY in PERFORMANCE
PRESSURE REDUCING • FLOAT • RELIEF • SOLENOID
ARMSTRONG
CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
358 G. ARANETA AVE., SANTOL, QUEZON CITY
TELS. 7135211 TO 13 • 7135191 FAX 7135182

TILING SYSTEMS?
Consult the tiling authority!
PRODUCTS: Ceramic Floor & Wall Tiles • Homogeneous Tiles • Porcelain Tiles • Tile Adhesives • Tile Grouts • Tile Trims • Sanitaryware • Lavatories
SERVICES: Professional Assistance • Free Color Matching • Free Estimates • Free Consultation • Delivery
Lepanto Trading Corp.
The tiling authority.
BACOOR DEPOT: Anabu 1, Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Imuz, Cavite Outlets: Km. 19 Dulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite • Brgy. Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas • Salitran 1, Aguinaldo Highway • Molino III, Bacoor • Paliparan III, Dasmariñas • Brgy. Longus Talaba, Bacoor • Aguinaldo Highway, Laloan II, Silang, Cavite
LAGUNA DEPOT: Km. 54 Brgy. Tulo, Makiling, Calamba, Laguna Outlets: Brgy. Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna • Bo. Pulong, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa • Bo. Canlalay, Biñan • 2901 Brgy. Anos, Los Baños • Lodora Village, Nat'l. Hi-way, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City • 591 Fabricare Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
ORTIGAS DEPOT: Km. 18 Celilu Industrial Complex, Ortigas Ave., Cainta, Rizal Outlets: 608 Concepcion Uno, J.P. Rizal, Marikina City • Mayamot, Marcos Hi-Way, Antipolo • 4th Floor, Bldg. B, SM Megamall • #29 Circumferential Road, Antipolo City • Unit 10, C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City
FAIRVIEW DEPOT: 561 I & J Dor Mariano Ave., Old Balara, Q.C. Outlets: B 43, L 6 Regalado Ave., North Fairview, Q.C. • 1127-F Quirino Hi-Way, Zabarte, Bo. Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Q.C. • 573 Quirino Hi-Way, Bagbag, Novaliches, Q.C. • Philippine Rabbit Compound, 1240 EDSA Balintawak, Q.C. • Blk 1, Lot 2, SM Homes, Camarin Road, Caloocan City • A. Mabini St., Burgos, Montalban, Rizal
SUB DEPOT: Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga • Ayala Hi-Way, Balintawak, Lipa City • C/o Sony Service Center, Brgy. San Roque, San Pablo City

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 (9129011 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8176071

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

Plan/Bdgt. Const. 9520105

MASSAGE

'02 CAMPUS IDOL 8890170

2DMX BOYS 8348875

Akhin Thai Masge #0917 411-6004 Mla & Cbu Services

Glen9264664-09198457226

•Ivan Masseur 7048757•

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

PRETTY MASSEUSE 7516649

UNWIND 752-0437

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

Edgar 09168294488 7503640 HHS

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Reflex Cynthia •8050681•

Scorpion Massg 4372542

TUTORIAL LESSONS

• LIGHT-5268216 OR 70 •

QUICK MATH
Math, Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Sciences, also Music - Piano, Voice, Guitar, Special Languages @ Home Call 5308671;5264462 loc.20

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAID YAYA 4934583

Avble Maids Fr. Province 1st Time Mla 445-0513, 291-4524

BEST MAID 411-1593/741-9082

GoodMaidYayaCook 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

LOW RATE AGENCY 9288862

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI 4213253

We provide sufficient & trusted Maids, Yaya, Cook, All-around, Driver Waiter 7589029/9256442

Yaya H'girl Lava 8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

7837228 CLOSE VAN 4/6W

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227•

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

KALOOCAN

2.8has clean title gd 4 school 5331485/09164623978

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

HOMES FOR SALE

AVENTINE PLACE
where neighbors grow into friends
BF Resort, Las Piñas
TWO STOREY with ATTIC
3 BR / 2 T&B

MARIE	– 842-4236
ROEL	– 842-0939
GLESS	– 809-0656
TITA	– 890-4560
LINO	– 842-0764
HARRY	– 802-4254
ED	– 801-0879
ELISA	– 0917-4725798
GENE	– 842-6030
TINA	– 825-0042

WELCOME BROKERS & AGENTS!
BF CITI REALTY MARKETING CORPORATION
BF CITI LAND CORPORATION

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI

New 4BDR&3TB Palanan FA200m² Tel 9175309804

MANILA

4UNIT 3sty nr DLSU 8992148

QUEZON CITY

Nr Aurora Blvd 320m² clean title 09164623978 / 5331485

PROVINCIAL

★SUBIC 50+has.★ 047-9134120 • 0917-4217395

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

150sqm 2BR 2TB 7764676

MARIKINA

Grmlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-2429078

MUNTINLUPA

Ayala Alabang 900m²/700m² /500sqm Neg 0917-5282174

PASIG

273m² 6T/m² Greenwoods Subd. 641-7376 • 0917-4792501 Vida

★BO CAPITOLYO★ Bungalow 230m² Well Kept • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

3000m² Along EDSA V-Lot 928-1469 • 0919-4024987

LA3,082 New Manila, Q.C. cor Lot 18T/m² 0919-4024987

LA471² Comm'l Lot Cong Ave Congressional Ave. 928-1469

Malaya St Cor. Banaue 7314018

PRE-SELL Celebrity Place 4BR CAR 3STRY • 928-1469

Xavierville 10.5M 0917-7918952

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR 3 30mins fm mkt. 95 Units left • 0917-9114250 Luis

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

PHILIPPINES PARADISE
For Sale
Newly Constructed two-storey house 4Bed/4Bath, Living/Dining & Domestic Spectacular Ocean & Beach Views 5-minutes walk to Beach & Marina 1-1/2 hours South of Manila Close to Yacht & Marine Facilities With 60 Ton travel lift, 100% Secure! Building another 6 Houses Cost $225K. If purchased or 50 year Renewable Lease, Buyer can apply for Philippine Residence Status. Sporting Facilities Sailing, Fishing, Golfing, Diving (Wreck & Technical)
For Viewing see Webpage: www.pacificinteriorssupply.com/for_sale.html
for more inquiries, e-mail us at: waynem@skyinet.net

PROVINCIAL

Sta Rosa Village Sta Rosa, Laguna 152m² cor lot 43.20FA w/ Attic 26.20 Call Cha 8957658

LOT

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO
BNew Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P2.453M up 8903461 loc 34

QUEZON CITY

400m² Capitol Park 938-9719

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160 Pay 20%(in 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only w/Complete Facilities RUSH! 9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Ind'l Park
Phase 1 Ready for Move-in
Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm
Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite
Tel. 635-8108/634-2956 - Rey
Brokers are Welcome

MONTEBELLO
Along Maguyam Road
Via Carmona, Cavite
PRE-SELLING
Residential Lot for Sale
@ Discounted Price
Tel. 635-8108 / 636-0111 - 14
Look for Dante
Brokers / Agents Welcome

OTHER AREAS

Ciudad Real, SJDM BUL-292m² Call: Tel: 8903461 to 69 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

★ONE LEGAZPI PARK★
AYALA LAND PROJECT
AS LOW AS P20,000/mo.
STUDIO • 1-2BRs • 671-4421

MANDALUYONG

WHY RENT WHEN U CAN OWN?! NO DP! 1-3BR@11,000/M! MAND CALL:0917-5229214

PASIG

Ren3000 Sale or Rent 75T FF other sizes/loc Auble 4121825

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% DP 9132224;9124428;4381161

Eastwood Condo 2M 10% DP Bal. 16T/Mo. 0917-9120750

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

MEMORIAL LOT

Himlayang Pilipino Family Estates 16 lots T-9125847

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

★SUBIC 52has@P500/m² neg w/fruit trees 047-9134120

TERESA RIZAL 7has clean title neg agro-industrial 0916-4623978/533-1485

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

ONE BEATRIZ

WHY BUY IF NOT READY TO USE? Invest/Visit us for flexible term: 0% ready to move in! Near UP Ateneo, St. Luke's, w/ jacuzzi spool, garden, viewdeck C/Res'l/off.
MOVERS DEVT. MKTG.
4213223 4210734
JOSIE 046-4714767
Cel 0919-407-6857

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Celebrity Club
Shares @ P365,000.00 w/easy payment terms, 2 Years w/o interest (30% DP / 70% Bal.) Lifetime Playing rights @ P250,000.00 also payable in 2 yrs. w/o interest. Pls. call 637-3761; 636-7459; 951-3525; 0919-4326663 • 0919-2518781

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR GRG nr B'dia 15T 8441669

3BR 2TB w/grge 8992148

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

4BR 3T&B 2Car Garage Basement 16.5T Ireneville Call (0917)8171173/9235447

MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/phone 8445449 CP09195546815 Didi

PASIG

2Stry 4BR Nr. SM • 641-6683

For Rent Pinagbuhatan Pasig 3br 2tb Call 641-5750

PROVINCIAL

2BR bes PMA FF 9125847

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES, FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
7594091*7522580*0917-8381928

PASIG

ASTORIA PLAZA ORTIGAS
Full Serviced Residences
FOR SALE OR LEASE
1-2Br. w/Rest, Pool, Gym, Spa, Function Rooms+Business Center
Tel# 631-3929/910-0372 -Tere
Brokers are Welcome

Ortigas PARC ROYALE nice 1br / tb new paint fully furnished new washer mwave frig. 29T /mo. Hurry! 910-2928

QUEZON CITY

New Mla. 3br Attic 722-2572

BEDSPACE

nr DLSU w/food P6T 8992148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

Prime Comm Space 400m² Pasay Rd. Corner Amorsolo Mkt City 521-5621 / 0919-8911750

RESORT

Subic Peninsula Mount Resort Waterfalls, Beach Pool 0916-4746606

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

CB RICHARD ELLIS
B.New Res. Units For Lease
Essensa-Luxury 3BR
Fort Bonifacio, 290 sqm.
Classica Tower-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157 sqm., 18-85K UF/FF
Burgundy Westbay-123BR
V.Cruz-Taft near Lasalle
14-37K, 42-90 sqm.
commercial units
More properties available:
7522580, 7594091
8487388, 7500127
7592335, 09178381928
manila@cbrichardellis.com

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BUSES/TRUCKS

9 Units Dumtruck Intrnl Cummins Engine 350Turbo P3.5M w/S-Part Tel. (044) 463-5211 / 463-7103 A1 Cond

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9018 For Information

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

1380 STRX W/UDRV 2941359

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

HONDA MB100 8908668

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 / Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MARIAN 8955627
CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8279137

Revo 8935176/0917-8190552

SPECIAL-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, L300, REVO, Altis, Honda, Lynx, Exalta, Matic, Cars/Vans Pajero ABC-5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

TOYCO Trans Coaster/Cars Vans Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262760

2% w/oTaking Car 3645928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

FURNITURE

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS?! SALE! SALE! SALE! 60% to 70% DISCOUNT. MARCH 21 to APRIL 7 DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY FABRIC DESIGNERS GUILD & OTHER BRANDED NAME. 2295 PASONG TAMO EXT. 843-2953, HURRY, LIMITED TIME OFFER

HOME APPLIANCE

High quality tube amplifier & pre-amp, tubes, kits, pin jacks & cords from Japan. We can test it 4 you. Visit us at G/F Greenworld Plaza #79 Pres. Ave. Teoville Subd. BF Homes Pque or call us Mon-Sat 8-5 pm 5413575 / 8202552 Sun 09194084603-Cristy 09164873730-Liz

PETS

7 DALMATIAN PUPS 3 MONTHS 0919-3627402

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
LICENSED BY THE GOVT.
Tel : 721-37-36

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty-Bnew 8014494/8020566

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390004 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

4 SALE AIRCON 4 Yatch/Boy 09194893865•09179602795

MALE

IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN
At least w/ 1 yr exp. in golf course irrigation and pipe repair. Know how to operate and maintain irrigation electronic components. Call 049-549-1598 ask for Mario

FEMALE

Attract Recept
w/experiens Female Single
Call MWF 8189632/8944761

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
Apply 10 J. Ocampo Proj. 4, QC #4212595 • 0916-3351303

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
w/ 3 yrs. min. Sales exp.
in printing
Fax resume @ 5473473

Fitness Instructress (F) Swimming Instructress(F) Baker (M) Domestic Helper(F) 5623962

OFC STAFF 0917-6163680

Ofc staff 91334470 Gerald

Programmers-C / C++/Python Telecommutel bio: md @XNI.com No Exper. Nec. but you must know your stuff! M/F

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the property of late PLACIDA V. VALBUENA is being settled extrajudicially by an affidavit of self-adjudication by the sole heir as per Doc. No. 106, Page No. 22, Book No. VI Series of 2002 of Quezon City before Notary Public ATTY. ANTONIO G. DORONILA
PDI-March 12,19&26, 2002

Rush Grge Sale 09195541403

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of August and September 2001 on April 7, 2002, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Are you tired of 8 to 5?? Set ur own Hrs + Addt'l Income!! Intl Travel 8004226

Globe 9%Smart 11% 745-9351

Infant Kid, Teen, Adult Wear Inventory Sale 3738821

JOINT VENTURE
20 STY BLDG. COR. LOT 1400M² Valenz-Nagtahan Link Sta. Mesa Mla. 8944761

GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America
Learn about Gems and Jewelry
From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide
GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential
Thailand is a world center for gems and jewelry
For professional training at the source
GIA Thailand Campus
Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

PNOC
The Energy Company
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. 840 2024 or 893-6001 Loc. 1120
Fax No. (632) 840 1459
E-mail addresses: rbasallo@pnoc-ec.com.ph or ecengg@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites all Allison authorized maintenance suppliers and/or contractors to submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of:

REPLACEMENT ALLISON 501 KB5 GAS TURBINE ENGINE
PR NO. HN 223 103

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting March 12, 2002.
Bidders are required to submit a complete set of the following pre-qualification documents on or before March 26, 2002:

1. Company profile or brochures showing related projects completed;
2. Annual Reports with audited financial statements for the past two (2) years;
3. List of clients and bank references;
4. Certification that the bidder is a bona-fide service contractor/supplier, obtained from respective embassies or consular or trade office in the Philippines or Philippine embassies in the country of origin;
5. Certification that the bidder is an Allison authorized maintenance center and/or supplier until December 31, 2002.

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on April 12, 2002, 2:00 p.m., Manila time, at Bldg. I Conference Room of the above stated address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount stipulated in the tender documents in the form acceptable to PNOC EC Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the PNOC EC. Purchasing not later than April 30, 2002, 2:00 p.m., Manila time, at the above stated address. Late bids shall not be accepted. Public opening of the technical bids shall follow thereafter. Participating bidders shall be formally advised of the schedule of the financial bid opening. Only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

The approved budget for the project, which shall be sourced from Company funds, is PHP15 million. Delivery of the above equipment to PNOC EC's San Antonio Gas Power Plant in Echague, Isabela shall be on or before September 6, 2002 and installation, testing and commissioning shall not be later than September 20, 2002.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids on parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) RUFINO B. BOMASANG
President & CEO

(PDI--March 26, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

JOINT VENTURE
281 M² TITLED LOT INSIDE TAGAYTAY HILANDS FRNTNG LAKEVIEW MAINROAD TOPO & DEV PLANS 8189632/7263749

Restaurant For Sale Operating; Fully Equippd 850TH Neg. Owner Leaving Busy Area; Katipunan QC 0917-8415318 • 925-1597

GREAT NEWS ! IF UR NOT EARNING OVER 200T/m @ UR PRSNT NETWRK BUS. LETS TALK NOW 8072359 RESH

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS DEL BARRIO CUEVA who died on December 22, 1998 was extrajudicially settled by the sole heir as per Doc. No. 425, Page No. 86, Book No. XI, Series of 2002 Before Pasig City Notary Public of Atty. Arsenia N. Veloso.
(PDI- Mar. 12, 19, & 26 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell SHREDDED/SCRAP PAPERS thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 AM on April 10, 2002 at Room MR-2C, Second Floor, Five-Storey Building.

Interested parties may inspect the items at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, any working day before bidding date.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect, and/or informality therein and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer c/o Ms. Aurora S. Pascual, Administrative Services Department, Room 111, Ground Floor, Five-Storey Building, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 524-9898.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Chairman

(PDI – Mar. 26, 2002)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280103 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

BUENAVENTURA T. BARRIENTOS

Retiree of United Laboratories

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on March 25, 2002 at the age of 65.

His body lies in state at his residence
at 36 Pious Street,
Graceville Panoramic Homes,
Binangonan, Rizal.

Interment will be announced later.

> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
>
> John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved

LORETO "BEN" T. UY

Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 20, 2002 at the age of 63.

His loving wife **GLORIA**; children **ARIES** and **ANGIE**; **ALVIN** and **MARIVIC**; **AIMEE**; **MARY ANN**; grandchildren **ALEXANDER KEITH** and **AUBREY KHRISTINE** request the relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #198 A. Mendoza Street, Biñang 2nd, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on March 27, 2002 at Krus sa Wawa Memorial after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish Church.

Eleuteria B. Tiongco

Of Sierra Bullones and Tagbilaran, Bohol

She peacefully joined our Lord
on March 24, 2002
at the age of 71.

Her beloved children **Rolly** and **Paulin**, **Roel** and **Liza** and **Zaeniel "Jong-Jong"**; grandchildren **Therese**, **Poy**, **Majet**, **Belle**, **JR**, **Joshua** and **Jenjen**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at BAHAY UGNAYAN Samson Vigil Spaces, 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on March 31, 2002, Sunday at 3:00 PM.

In commemoration of his 2nd Death Anniversary,
we, the family of the late

JUANITO "JOHNNY" R. IGNACIO

(August 29, 1940 - March 26, 2000)

invite all his relatives and friends to join us in prayer.
Masses in his honor will be held at the following Churches:

St. James the Great Parish - Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:30 PM
Cathedral of St. Joseph - San Jose City, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM
Mary Help of Christians - San Jose City, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM
Parish of the Resurrection - BF Homes, Parañaque	6:30 AM
Church of the Resurrection - BF Homes, Parañaque	6:30 AM
St. Francis of Assissi - San Jose, CA	8:30 AM
St. Elizabeth Seton - Plano, TX	10:30 AM
St. Thomas Moore - Lynnwood, WA	6:00 PM

"There the Lord has lavished blessings, life forevermore" (Psalm 133:3)

Jovita Policarpio Vda. Enriquez

of Kalookan City

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 89.

She is survived by her loving sister **Araceli**; brother **Felix** (†); nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Floresco Funeral Homes, A. Mabini Street, Kalookan City.

Her friends and relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 27, 2002 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Kalookan. Immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass at San Roque Parish Church also in Kalookan City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 611-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding
in Luzon
Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding
in Visayas
Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3628
Cell. No. (0917) 965-2691
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos (035) 225-8706/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renta's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 225-1182
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel Nos (033) 337-3120/337-6016
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2830
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprises
RB Newspapers, Magazine &
Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marlete Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines &
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel Nos (036) 621-5580/622-6025
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. [illegible] Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding
in Mindanao
Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. Siren ya, sulit pa!

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading
490 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel Nos (085)225-3247
(085) 225-3160/341-5082
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5283
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel Nos (064) 421-3264/421-5011/
(064) 220-7080 [illegible]
Davao City
Unbaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City [illegible]
Tel Nos (082) 226-4406/221-3370/
221-3424/226-2031

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel Nos (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2020
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083) 301-6731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel Nos (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell No (0918) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlon's Variety Store
50 08 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4204/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
[illegible] Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-2005/990-4016

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Sugar industry seen losing ₱6.57B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUGAR industry is in danger of losing as much as P6.57 billion in annual sales to industrial users if the government does not increase duties on fructose—a cheap substitute for sugar—from 7 to 50 percent.

The Philippine Sugar Millers Association said imports of fructose were likely to surge should the government follow its schedule to lower duties from 7 to 5 percent next year.

This will offset benefits from the government's plan to keep tariffs on sugar high to protect the industry because it will depress domestic sugar prices to unprofitable levels, the group said.

Oscar Cortez, resident sugar technologist of the PSMA, said low fructose duties could prompt industrial users, such as makers of soft drinks, fruit juices, frozen desserts, and canned and bottled preserves, to switch from cane sugar to fructose, specifically the high fructose syrup or HFS, which was 1.3 to 1.8 times sweeter than sugar.

Industrial users currently buy 386,500 metric tons from local producers, and the PSMA is worried that this may be displaced by the greater access of fructose.

The PSMA said this would affect at least seven sugar mills with 3,300 workers, six refineries with 1,500 workers and 81,000 hectares of sugar cane producers with 110,000 farmers nationwide.

Cortez said companies from the United States, the world's biggest producer of HFS, was likely to set up factories in export processing zones to import their raw materials duty-free and re-export their output to the domestic market.

Cortez said fructose imports were currently insignificant because of the high shipping costs, but this could change once duties on fructose were lowered and sugar tariffs were maintained at prohibitive levels.

The PSMA has proposed that the government create a new subheading for fructose that will maintain fructose imports for pharmaceutical use at 7 percent while those for industrial use will be raised to 50 percent.

This was meant to ensure that the tariff hike would not affect the cost of medicine produced here.

The Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters is currently reviewing the PSMA's petition for a tariff hike on fructose.

SEC says it's ready to take over PSE to settle row

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is looking at three ways to head off efforts by a group of brokers to oust non-brokers sitting on the Philippine Stock Exchange's board.

In an interview yesterday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC was considering taking a direct hand in replacing the embattled non-broker directors of the stock exchange.

The SEC could also take over and put its own people on the stock exchange, she added.

A third option, she said, would be to allow the remaining officers of the PSE to run the bourse without the eight private sector representatives, but they would be "reporting directly" to the SEC.

Bautista stressed that whichever way, the PSE was at risk of again losing its status as a self-regulatory organization.

"As far as we're concerned, we would not want to take these steps to take over the exchange because that's not our usual job. We would prefer that the exchange continue as it is. But if we were forced to do it, then we would do it," she warned.

The PSE has been beset by infighting since stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco assumed its chairmanship largely on the support of non-brokers sitting on the PSE board.

Yuchengco, president of The First Management Resources, nosed out another stockbroker, Robert Coyiuto, in the race for PSE chair.

Coyiuto protested Yuchengco's election because his slate won five of the seven board seats set aside for brokers, suggesting that most brokers supported his group.

Yuchengco's group fielded four candidates, but only two—Yuchengco and Alicia Arroyo of RCBC Securities Corp.—won.

In the election for chairmanship, however, Yuchengco got eight votes while Coyiuto got seven. Six non-brokers and two brokers voted for Yuchengco, while two non-brokers and five brokers picked Coyiuto.

Last week, a group led by former PSE president Ramon Garcia and former PSE chair Trinidad Kalaw asked the Pasig Regional Trial Court to oust the eight non-brokers sitting on the PSE board. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Philippines' end-December external debt at $52.36B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE EXTERNAL debt of the Philippines totaled $52.36 billion as of end-December, down from $52.43 billion in September, largely due to favorable exchange rate movements, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

At the end of 2000, the country's external debt totaled $52.06 billion.

In a news release, the central bank said: "Net inflows of more than $1.6 billion from foreign loan transactions during the (fourth) quarter were offset by foreign exchange revaluation adjustments arising from the strengthening of the US dollar vis-à-vis nearly all other currencies."

The bulk of the country's foreign borrowings are denominated in dollars.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said about 60 percent of foreign loan disbursements during the quarter supported the government's budgetary requirements and the build-up of the central bank's international reserves.

He added the balance funded various development and capital expansion projects in the areas of power and energy development, and transportation and communications.

The public sector share of the total debt declined to 64.4 percent from 64.6 percent at end-September and 66.1 percent in December 2000, the release said.

The profile of the outstanding debt was little changed from the end of September, with 88.5 percent in medium- to long-term loans with a weighted average original maturity of over 16 years, the bank said.

Of the total debt stock, 57.4 percent was denominated in US dollars, with 24.3 percent in yen and the rest in other currencies.

The ratio of total debt service payments to exports and receipts of income at end-December remained "manageable" at 16.4 percent, the bank said.

DLSU planning to issue bonds to meet 'funding goal'

DE LA SALLE University has disclosed plans to raise money through a bond issue.

A letter written by Securities and Exchange Commission director Justina Callangan showed that DLSU was seeking to issue bonds "given the assumption that a significant number of (its) alumni would pitch in to help their alma mater reach its funding goal.

"Depending on the response of target investors, DLSU may opt to issue said bonds at a discount on a selective basis or across the board," according to Callangan's letter.

DLSU did not indicate how much it was hoping to raise from bonds.

Ateneo de Manila University was earlier able to raise some P200 million to beef up its college of business administration through a donation from taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Callangan told DLSU that the SEC was still consolidating its existing rules on commercial papers with the implementing rules and regulations of the Securities Regulation Code.

The Securities Regulation Code defines "securities" as "shares participation or interests in a corporation or in a commercial enterprise or profit-making venture and evidenced by a certificate, contract, instrument, whether written or electronic in character."

These include shares of stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, certificates of indebtedness and asset-backed securities.

Based on this definition, Callangan told DLSU that the proposed bonds would be subject to five rules:

- Requirement to file registration statement;
- Prospectus delivery rule;
- Rule on written communication not deemed an offer for sale;
- Requirements for filings pursuant to the SRC and the corporation code; and,
- Incorporation by reference.

Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't seeks better terms for $170-M GSDP loan

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MONTEMAYOR

NAGA CITY—Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said here on Sunday that the government's steering committee negotiating with the Asian Development Bank was firming out the "language" of the terms for the release of the second tranche of the $170-million Grains Sector Development Program loan.

Montemayor said the draft terms, which the steering committee would submit to the ADB, revised two conditions that, he said, could improve the position of and relax the conditions imposed on the Philippine government.

He said the committee was working on the exclusion of the cap on *palay* procurement price to P9 a kilo and a requirement that the President must certify as urgent a bill that would lift quantitative restriction on rice importation.

"We (steering committee) were arguing that it (ADB) should exclude among the conditions the removal of incentive fees given to farmer and cooperatives. It should be separated because the incentive fees do not apply to all the *palay* sold by the farmers or cooperatives," Montemayor said.

He said the ADB wanted to include in the *palay* price cap the incentive fees given to farmers and cooperatives for selling good quality grains.

The National Food Authority gives an extra 50 centavos to every kilo of *palay* with the right moisture content and quality as an incentive to farmers and cooperatives over the P9-a-kilo buying price.

Montemayor said the steering committee believed it was wrong to require the President to certify as urgent a bill that would lift quantitative restriction on rice importation for the release of the second tranche of the $170-million GSDP loan.

Montemayor said, however, that House Speaker Jose De Venecia had already initiated the filing of House Bill 3339, which sought to convert the protection to the local rice industry by imposing tariffs on rice importation.

Montemayor said he felt a "guarded optimism" that the ADB would consider the final formulation of the revised terms for the release of the second tranche of the loan.

No snag in assumption of Napocor debts, Psalm says

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said yesterday that there was no snag in its talks with the Asian Development Bank on its assumption of the National Power Corp.'s debts, and that this would be completed by May.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said in an interview that Psalm would also wrap up talks with the ADB on the transfer of Napocor's assets, which would be auctioned off late this year.

"Psalm and the ADB are making good progress in these," Del Fonso told reporters.

He said the Manila-based lender wanted an assurance that the buyers of Napocor's assets would abide by the conditions it set for releasing its loans.

One such condition involves protecting the environment, he said. The ADB is seeking to check harmful gas emissions from Napocor's power plants.

Del Fonso added that the ADB also wanted to review Napocor's privatization plan and Psalm's financial outlook.

"Apart from these, we are going to go over individual loan covenants," he said.

The Psalm chief was reacting to reports quoting ADB chief country officer Richard Ondrik as saying that the ADB disagreed with a planned block transfer of Napocor's $1 billion in total loans to Psalm.

"We are not saying no by any means," Ondrik said. "We just can't do it in a one-shot deal."

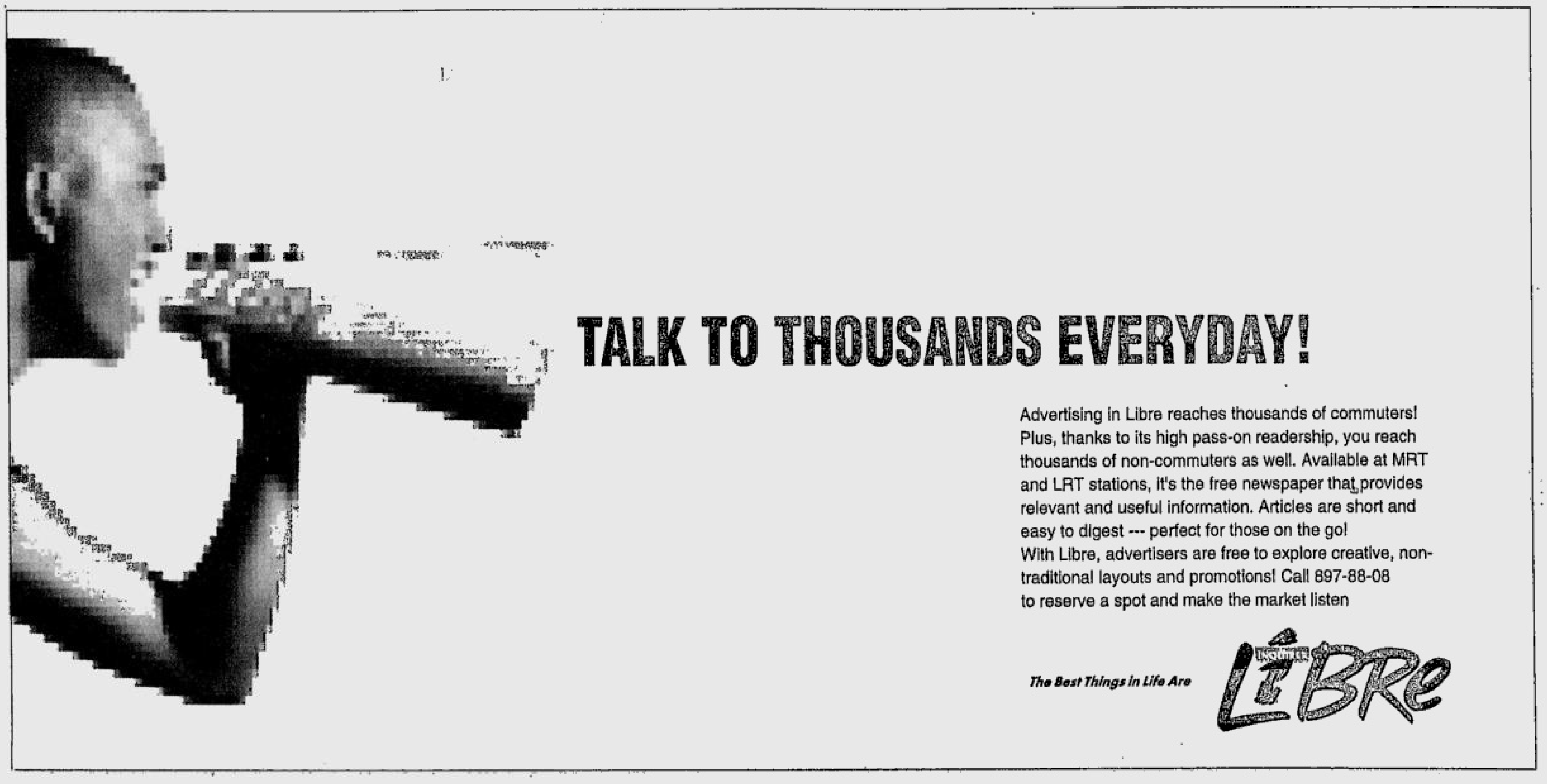
He said that because of Psalm's limited mandate, it might be unable to fulfill some covenants tied to the ADB loans.

Ondrik said if it concerned Napocor's transmission assets, for instance, the National Transmission Corp. would be the one that would have to meet the conditions.

He said the energy department might have to take charge of some of the obligations or conditions.

In January, Del Fonso said Psalm expected to complete the transfer of Napocor's assets and loans obligations this month.

He said Napocor's creditors needed to approve the provisions of the transfer before the process could be completed. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



TALK TO THOUSANDS EVERYDAY!

Advertising in Libre reaches thousands of commuters! Plus, thanks to its high pass-on readership, you reach thousands of non-commuters as well. Available at MRT and LRT stations, it's the free newspaper that provides relevant and useful information. Articles are short and easy to digest --- perfect for those on the go! With Libre, advertisers are free to explore creative, non-traditional layouts and promotions! Call 897-88-08 to reserve a spot and make the market listen

The Best Things in Life Are Inquirer Libre

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Fitness

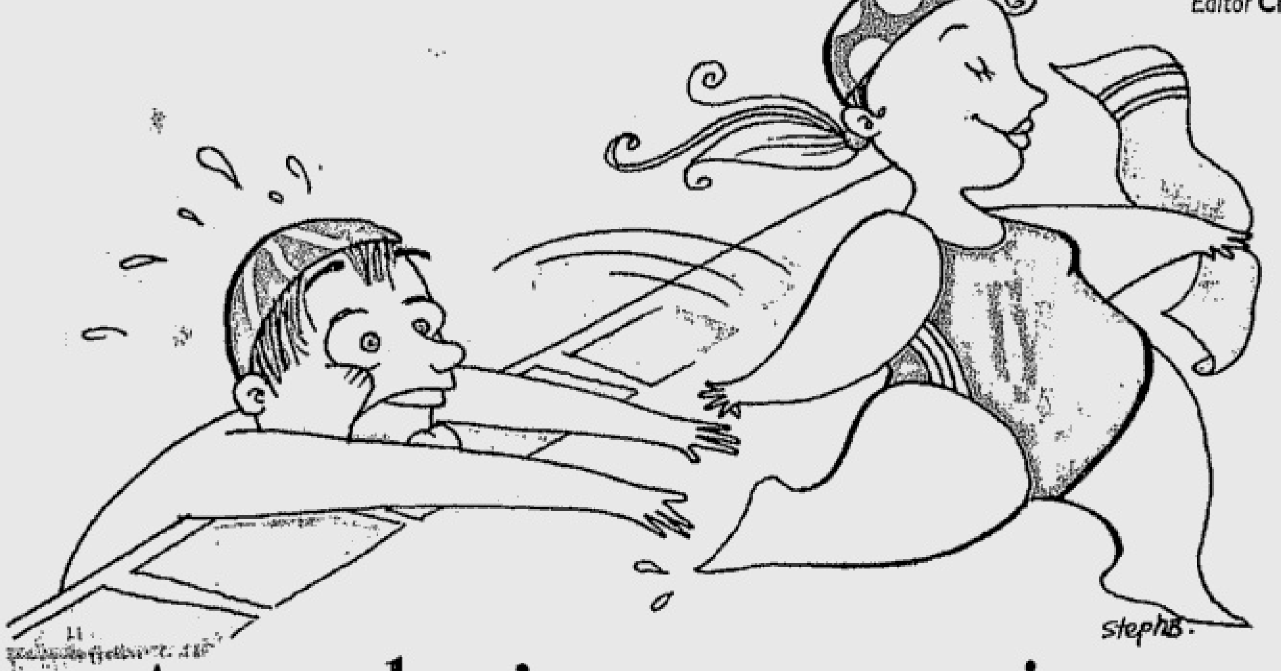


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A reader's eye-opening fitness experience

This tale shows the steady physical decline of a young man who was once slim, fit and active

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

DEAR Ms Fitness,

As an avid reader of your column and website, I thought it would be good to share a recent experience. I know you do not answer mail personally, but this may serve as a relevant topic for future articles.

I'm 32 years old and I weigh about 142 pounds and, until recently, I considered myself in relatively good shape. I work as a graphic designer. My busiest hours are spent in front of a computer monitor for six to 10 hours a day. I eat sporadically, usually subsisting on one full meal a day, with snacks, fast food and sweets making up the rest of my intake.

My girlfriend has never been a thin girl, and she has constantly been obsessed about weight (rather than fitness) and size (rather than health). I mocked and jeered every diet pronouncement, and sneered at the fact that she drank and smoked. I was actually lighter than her and had a smaller waistline when we first went out, which was the subject of much teasing.

Last night she suggested we go swim laps at the country club. It was my first time in an Olympic-size pool, but I was not intimidated. After all, to get my scuba certification, I had to do the equivalent of 10 laps, and completed it without a hitch. This was different. I got in, did one tiring lap, then limped in on my return. I was in such bad shape that I was heaving and close to having full body cramps. Me? Heaving? No! I got out of the pool before my pain and humiliation would result into my drowning.

I'll admit I've noticed my former physique deteriorate, but I guess I conditioned myself that the love handles and the A-cup-man-boobs weren't all that bad. I've gained 15 pounds in the last five years (prior to that I had maintained my weight of 127 pounds for about 10 years). I'm not obese, I kept thinking. And I kept in mind that weight gain—or loss, for that matter—had never been a serious issue in the past (I had 9 percent body fat at one point).

If I was getting fat, I'd visit the gym for a month, do push-ups and sit-ups at home and voila, I'd be back to the (short) Greek god of my youth. That was four or five years ago, when I would go scuba diving, rock climbing, hiking and all the stuff young testosterone-driven men do. I knew I was getting out of shape, but I didn't know how bad things had become until last night.

A READER'S/ p.C2

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Kneeling buttocks squeezes

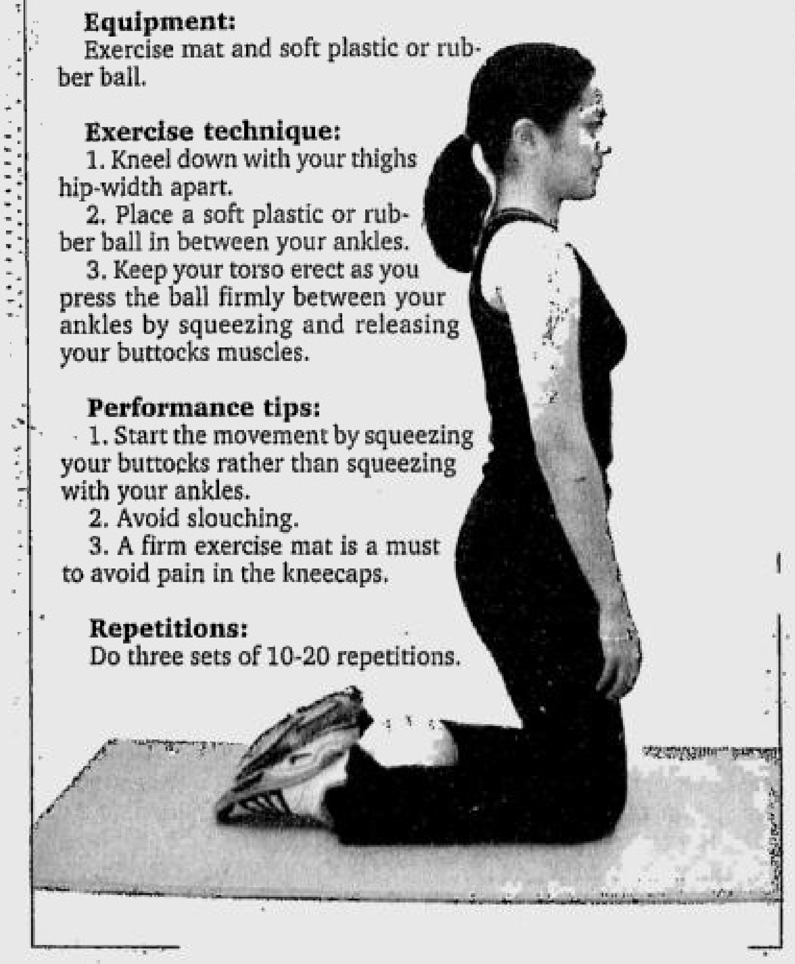
THIS exercise works to tighten your buttock muscles.

Equipment:
Exercise mat and soft plastic or rubber ball.

Exercise technique:
1. Kneel down with your thighs hip-width apart.
2. Place a soft plastic or rubber ball in between your ankles.
3. Keep your torso erect as you press the ball firmly between your ankles by squeezing and releasing your buttocks muscles.

Performance tips:
1. Start the movement by squeezing your buttocks rather than squeezing with your ankles.
2. Avoid slouching.
3. A firm exercise mat is a must to avoid pain in the kneecaps.

Repetitions:
Do three sets of 10-20 repetitions.



EASTER GIMMICK ON ICE!

COME IN YOUR EASTER ATTIRE OR A GROUP OF THREE & GET FREE SOUVENIR PHOTO ON ICE!

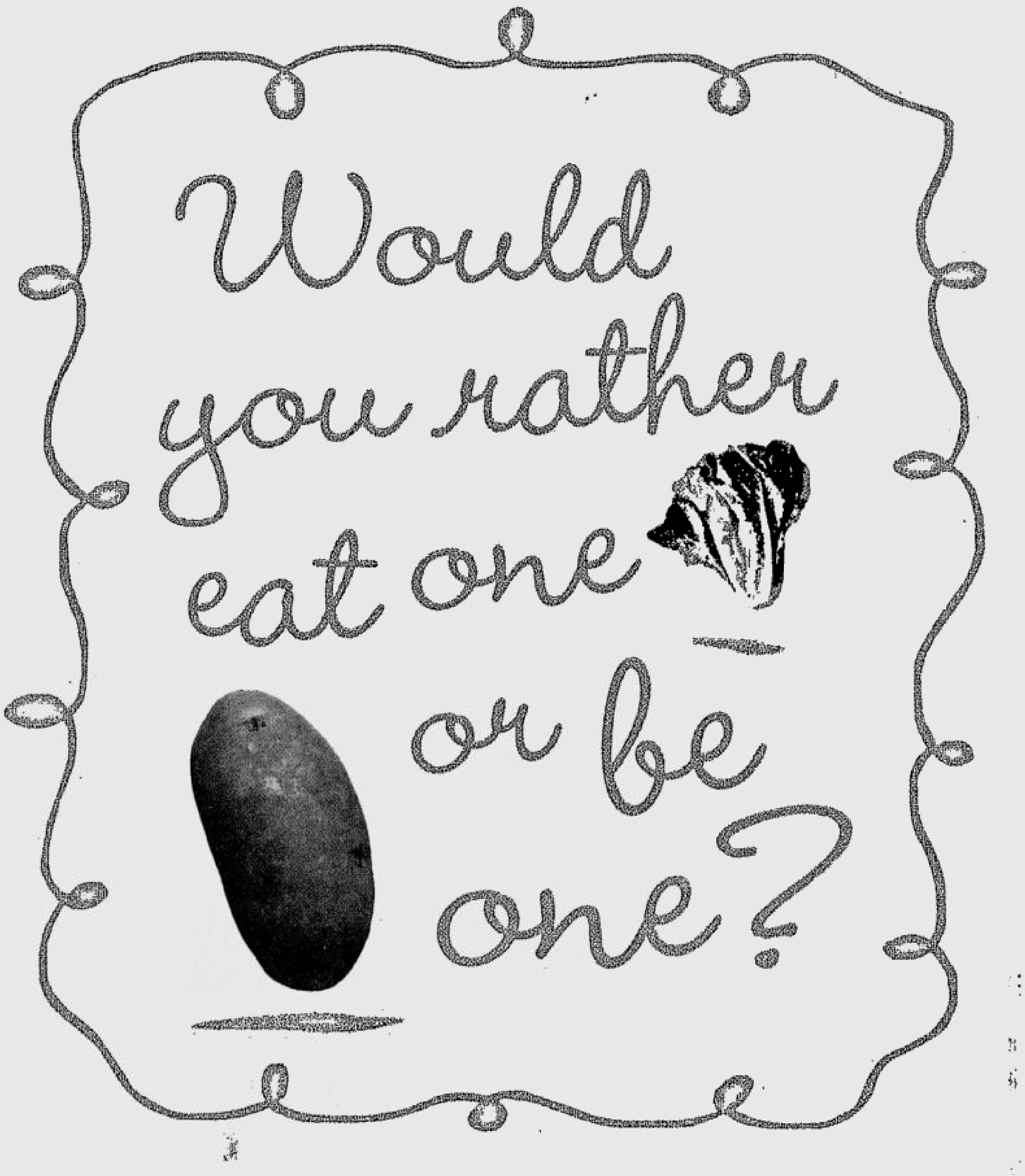
- Cut and present this ad for an additional hour of ice skating time
- Not valid with any other promo.

SM ICE SKATING RINK
MEGAMALL • SOUTHMALL

PROMO RUNS MARCH 15 - 31, 2002

islandphoto Center, Inc.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0822 Series of 2002


Would you rather eat one or be one?

If you think vegging out is all there is to life, you don't know beans about what's good for you. Let *Healthy Options* show you the possibilities a healthy life has to offer. With its wide range of all-natural products, you're sure to find something that's good for you. So make the healthier choice today. Choose *Healthy Options*.

Healthy Options
www.healthyoptions.com.ph

Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa • Rustan's Supermarket, Makati • Festival Supermall, Alabang • SM City, North Edsa • SM City, Manila • Greenbelt, Makati • SM Megamall, Edsa • Ayala Center, Cebu

Please fill out this coupon and present at any *Healthy Options* branch to get a SPECIAL GIFT.

Personal Information
Name: ______ SURNAME ______ FIRST NAME ______ M.I. ______ Birthday: __ MM __ DD __ YYYY
Address: ______ NO. ______ STREET ______ VILLAGE ______ MUNICIPALITY ______ CITY ______ ZIP CODE
☎: ______ 📱: ______ 💻: ______

Do you experience any of the following?
Please check all that apply to you.
○ Arthritis
○ Diabetes
○ Weight problems
○ Hypertension
○ Food allergies
○ Heart ailment
○ Liver problems
○ Menopause
○ Others ______

Are you a *Healthy Options* customer? ○ yes ○ no

Spirits protect an unnamed mountain

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I REALLY didn't know what to expect when I brought last week a mixed group of curious people to the mysterious mountain retreat of Art Cataquiz in Lucban, Quezon.

There were originally only 15 going in one rented van, but somehow word got around and more people asked to be included. In the end, there were 30 of us in six vehicles that went up the mystic mountain.

The motley group included a local movie actor and actress, two European ladies, several business people, doctors, an architect, a graphic artist, accountants, an inventor, a teacher and a government employee. Many were former seminar participants of mine, but a few I just met at that time.

A number of those I had invited to join the mystical trip were known clairvoyants, sensitives and trance channels. Since sensitives who had previously visited the place saw and experienced extraordinary things, maybe some members of this group would, too.

We got delayed in arriving at the place because two vehicles lost their way before reaching San Pablo City. Thanks to modern means of communication, the cell phone, we were able to trace one another until every vehicle was accounted for.

Arriving at the yet unnamed mountain, I introduced our host, Art Cataquiz, who delivered a brief welcome address. He traced the origins of his spiritual development to the mental technique I teach my students, culminating in his vision of the mystical mountain.

"This mountain retreat is the result of Licauco's teaching me how to meditate and to visualize our goals," he began. "No one reaches this sacred mountain unless s/he is invited by the spirits."

Guided by spirits

He told of strangers who were inspired by their own spirit guides to visit the place. Others who came with ulterior motives, such as to dig for gold or to establish some religious cults, were driven away by the spirits. They could not stay long in the mountain without getting very uneasy, he said.

After lunch, Art led our group down the big boulder that pulsates as if alive and to the brook or spring with very strong energy. Here is where Art has seen the Blessed Virgin Mary and other benign spirits. He has photographs to show skeptics what he had witnessed. In some evenings he would see UFOs or strange moving lights in the sky. At other times he would hear horses' hoofs galloping when there is not a single horse around.

What our group felt and experienced that day was something else. One male doctor touched the boulder and confirmed it to be pulsating as if alive. He mentally went inside and saw an ET-like creature, which greeted him. It was the same entity I had seen in the same boulder before.

The movie actor, who is known for his involvement in environmental protection issues and was previously into UFO research, said there is a strong energy or beam of light that shoots straight from the center of that boulder up into outer space above. Two ladies meditated on top of the boulder and felt as though they were being lifted up. The French lady said she felt she was burning because of the very strong energy in the place.

Three highly psychic individuals (a man and two ladies) were led astray from the crowd by the nature spirits and found themselves down and far ahead of the others, although they were merely following behind others before that. "We didn't see the concrete stairs one had to pass to get there. We were just there!" They said in big surprise.

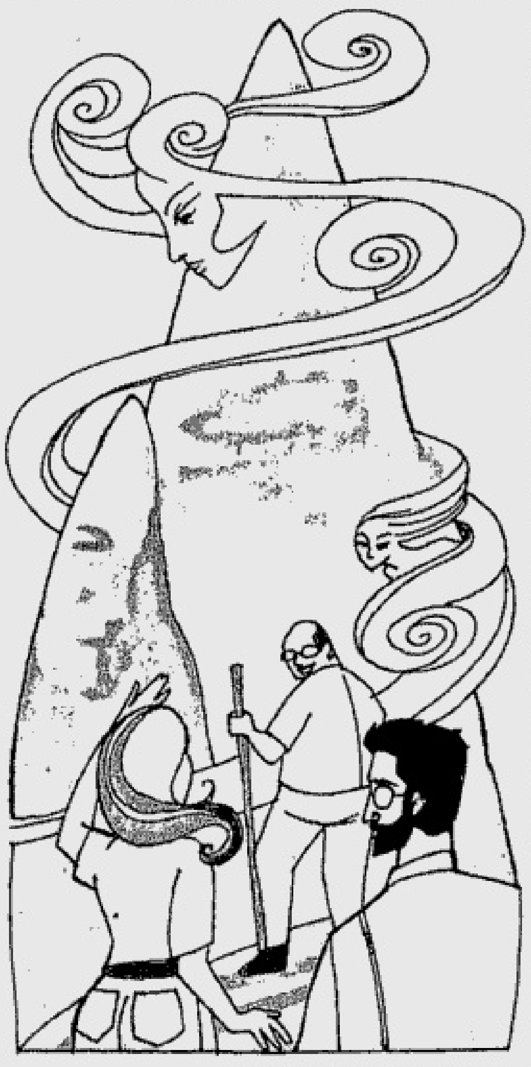


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Others felt goose bumps in the spring, indicating the presence of spirits. At least one woman went into trance and received a message from the spirit guardian of the spring.

One member of the group said he has never been to a place where he had experienced so profound peace and quiet as in that mysterious mountain. Another received a message that there are more mysteries that will be discovered in the place.

Mountain retreat

When asked what he intended to do with the mountain, Art said, "It depends on what the spirits tell me to do. Everything I do here is dictated by the spirits. Even the money I spend for the development of this place came from the spirits."

He has spent millions of pesos developing his mountain retreat. To date he has built a small rest house, a large multipurpose hall and meditation tower. On the floor of the multipurpose hall that looks like a religious chapel, he has painted a labyrinth at my suggestion. I walked through that labyrinth and felt energized along the way, although I started out very tired. The labyrinth is like a mandala that you walk on.

I suggested to Art that he should give a name to the mountain so people can find it. He said spirits told him to call the place Ciudad Verdadera or City of Truth. Actually, the mountain is located in Barrio Bataan, Sampaloc, Quezon which was formerly part of Lucban, explains Art, but people mistakenly refer to it as being in Lucban which is more publicly known.

According to Art, the spirits told him his mountain retreat will become an important center of spiritual and mystical activities in the near future the way Mt. Banahaw was in the past. Unlike Banahaw, Ciudad Verdadera's development will be controlled and will follow the dictates of the spirits. Art, the businessman-mystic from Pateros, Rizal considers himself not the owner but only "the caretaker of the mountain." He has a big task ahead of him, but he appears ready for it.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

GOING beyond their limitations—truly amazing!

Let the games begin

OVERCOMING one's limitations while having fun and sporting camaraderie—this was the essence of the "Olympic Challenge" posed by the Olympic Village Group of Companies (OVGC) to their handicapped friends at the Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH) in a recent event held at the Alabang Town Center.

The program included basketball and billiard exhibition games for 44 participants 18 to 40 years old from TWH. The activities contribute a large part to the rehabilitation of handicapped people, and provide them a venue for recreation, said Rocky Macaspac, TWH sports coordinator.

A Poster-Making Contest was also held to showcase the artistic talents of the participants from TWH. The Handicappable Band presented their talents for music by entertaining the audience and mall-goers with their inspired renditions of today's most popular songs. But the TWH Dance Group was the most applauded of them all—by doing some traditional dances with matching costumes in their wheelchairs.

Marissa Tecson, retail operations manager of Olympic Village, said the event was meant to raise awareness about TWH. The event will be an annual occasion for Olympic Village, according to Jay Gervasio, CEO of Olympic Village Group of Companies.

Olympic World, the flagship store of the OVGC, has a one-stop sports shop complex at the Alabang Town Center catering to the active lifestyle of its clients and selling fitness equipment, sports apparel and accessories, that can be used on and off the court. Call 809-4065 or 809-4050.

THE PEOPLE behind the successful and highly appreciated project (l-r)brand supervisor Trisha Solis, Anna Gonzales, Olympic Village Group of Companies CEO Jay Gervasio and Olympic Village retail operations manager Marissa Tecson

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Our company recently renewed our HMO plan with MEDICard, but by next month I will be turning 60 years old. Will my HMO coverage automatically end on my birthday?

No. Your HMO program will not end when you reach the age of 60. Our standard program allows renewal enrollment of principal members up to 60 years of age, thus members are still eligible for coverage until just before reaching the age of 61, that is 60 years plus 364 days.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Emilio B. Cadayona is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Capitol Medical Center. Dr. Cadayona or Dr. Emil to most of his patients finished Medicine at UP-Manila and earned his residency training for his specialization in Orthopedic Surgery at UP-PGH. He took his subspecialization training for Maxillo-Facial Traumatology at Oxford University, USA and finished his Masters degree in Hospital Administration at Ateneo de Manila. He is a Fellow to the Philippine Orthopedic Association and the Philippine College of Surgeons. You may visit him for your consultation needs at room 1111 of the Capitol Medical Center from Mondays to Sat urdays, 10 AM to 4 in the afternoon.

Dr. Gerard C. Agcaoili has been a part of MEDICard's top-notch medical service providers for more than seven years now. Doc Gerard finished Medicine at UST and his residency for his specialization in Diseases and Surgery of the Ear, Nose, Throat and Head and Neck in 1993 at the UST Hospital. He joined MEDICard's medical service team shortly after finishing his residency training. He is a Fellow to both the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the Philippine College of Surgeons and is a Diplomate to the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Doc Gerard spends most of his free time with his wife Dr. Theresa Agcaoili, a MEDICard accredited endocrinologist and their son John Gabriel, and by playing tennis and billiards. You may visit him for your consultation needs at room 204 of the Medico Bldg. of Medical City General Hospital, from Mondays to Fridays, 2 to 6:30 PM and on Saturdays, from 9 in the morning to 2 PM.

With the goal of meeting the demands of our increasing number of members, effective last March 08, MEDICard installed its newly upgraded telephone system and NEW TRUNK LINE NUMBER:

840-2020

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

A reader's eye-opening . . .

From page C1

I realize now that although my girlfriend does not exercise regularly, her lifestyle is very active. She is constantly on the move meeting clients, overseeing projects or running her office. And though I do not agree with her all-protein, no rice diets, she has disciplined herself to eat less and to eat more greens and fish. Another thing I did not take into consideration is that she has minimized her drinking and lost 20 pounds since we first met.

Bottom line is, and you've constantly mentioned this, thin does not equal healthy. In mocking my girlfriend's obsession with being slim instead of fit, I actually did the opposite. I equated my relatively average physique with being healthy.

The only good thing about the experience is that my girlfriend and I share a strong competitive nature. I have vowed to be more fit than she is, and last night's episode has given her undeniable bragging rights that she aims to keep. In the end, we'll both win.

YOUR LOYAL READER

This reader's story is a cautionary tale for young adults who are making the transition from their 20s into their 30s. It shows in graphic detail (no pun intended) the steady physical decline of a young man who once enjoyed a high level of fitness. It is a common story and it illustrates how slim, fit and active college students can slowly turn into overweight, unfit and sedentary thirtysomethings.

The reader gained 15 pounds in five years without really being aware of it is because the weight crept up on him slowly. It was basically a result of muscle loss due to a less physically active lifestyle that resulted in a slower metabolism. I am not putting too much blame on his eating habits because I am assuming he ate like that even in college. People don't normally change their eating habits unless something drives them to. That something can be weight gain, a health crisis or an increased awareness about healthy eating.

Scientists have calculated that a sedentary person will lose about half a pound of muscle every year after the age of 25. Muscle is a highly metabolic tissue (meaning it is calorie-hungry) and every pound of it requires 30-50 calories daily for maintenance. The loss of half a pound of muscle can make you gain 3-5 pounds a year (30-50 calories multiplied by 365 days in a year; 1 pound of fat equals 3,500 calories) even if you maintain the same activity level and eating habits.

It is no surprise that 10 years after college, many people find themselves overweight and unfit. The reality of life is that majority of people in urban areas earn their living by doing office work. Many people tell me that the start of their weight problems began the day they got tied down to a desk.

While I agree with him that his girlfriend's all-protein, no-rice diet is not exactly the ideal diet, his eating style is much worse. She is eating more vegetables and fish, and cutting back on her drinking. He is stuffing himself with "snacks, fast food and sweets." Even if he never gained weight on that kind of an eating plan, he would still be doing his health considerable damage because his foods of choice are high in processed sugar, flour, salt and fat.

Plus his backside is glued to a seat for most of his waking hours. Scientists have discovered that thin people who don't exercise are three times more likely to die young than an overweight person who exercises regularly. If he doesn't change, his current lifestyle will probably catch up with him in his 40s and beyond in the form of a heart attack or diabetes (if he has the genetic tendency). No doubt about it, you reap in your older years what you sow in your youth.

Luckily, this young man has had an eye-opening experience that will hopefully change his future. If he takes this incident to heart and buckles down to eating healthy food (he can follow his girlfriend's lead with eating more fish and vegetables, but he doesn't need to forego rice, beans, whole-wheat bread and other no-no's of a typical high-protein diet) and exercising regularly, his pain and humiliation in the swimming pool will have been worth it.

* * *

THE ASSOCIATION of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. (AFPP) will hold its Provincial Fit Tours in the following areas: Cebu, April 12-14 (call Veronica Enriquez at [032] 234-1643 or e-mail fitadcbu@mozcom.com); Cagayan de Oro, April 24-26 (call Julie Ang at [088] 857-5416 or e-mail Shirley Quejada at outfit@consultant.www.ph). The tour includes a two-day Basic Instructor Course and a one-day Fitness Workshop.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com for past articles and exercises.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

C'mon in, babies, the water's fine

PARENTS can spend quality time with their babies while helping them learn to swim with the "My Baby and Me" program of the country's premier swimming institution, the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS). The first and only Parent and Child Swimming Class of its kind in the Philippines, the program was designed and conceptualized by BLSS as a result of its search for the most effective introductory swim program for young children in the United States, Great Britain and Hong Kong.

Children from 6 months to 3 years old learn to go through the four stages of the "My Baby and Me" course with a parent or caregiver with them in the water. The exercises provide a lot of skin-to-skin contact that psychologists say may deepen the bond between parent and child.

At the end of the course, the child will have gained water confidence, learned basic water safety skills and declination for swimming. Self-esteem and social skills are also developed as a result of the interaction with the teacher and other students.

The "My Baby and Me" swim class is being conducted every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at The Spa, RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Buendia Avenues, Makati City. Backed by 50 years of experience, the BLSS is the only swim school in the Philippines affiliated with the National Swim Schools Association of America.

Call 563-5532.

SWIMMING class for kids under 3 and their parents at The Spa, RCBC Plaza every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Little Swimmers
Little Swimmers
Little Swimmers

HASSLE-FREE WATER FUN

Thanks to the new Huggies Little Swimmers Disposable Swimpants, babies can now join in the fun. The first and only disposable swimpants for babies in the country, Little Swimmers has water-repellent outer cover, stretchy sides and leak guards that protect without swelling in water. Each pair of swimpants has tear-away sides for easy removal.

THE LITTLE Gym, a total development and fitness center for children, allows children to visit a different place in the country this summer through songs, games and fun activities. At the end of the quarter, there will be fiesta and a show for parents. Classes are offered on motor development, gymnastics, sports, martial arts and creative crafts. The Little Gym has branches at the Bonifacio Global City in Makati (815-1735/1779), Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong (637-2463 to 64), Katipunan Avenue in Loyola Heights, QC (929-9013/9018) and Festival SuperMall in Alabang (850-4060 to 61).

Choices for the little one in Baby Magazine

BEAUTY queen Michelle Aldana-Heinermann and son Dustic grace the cover of Baby Magazine in its current issue, where she narrates about her life in Germany and the strength of character she showed when she gave birth prematurely.

For those who are thinking of sending their little ones to school soon, Baby Magazine features "Picking preschools: Questions you need to ask for your child's first home away from home."

The magazine also provides a guide on choosing the right shoes for your toddlers plus "everything you wanted to know about dwarfism."

Baby
QUEEN'S LIFE IN EUROPE:

Baby Magazine is available in all National Bookstore outlets, Binondo Media outlets, SM Baby Company sections and all leading magazine stands.

Call 751-3655 to 56 or 887-3456.

It's official

CHECK out the new look of the Southern Conference teams when MBA starts its first conference with an opening game at the Cebu Coliseum on April 6.

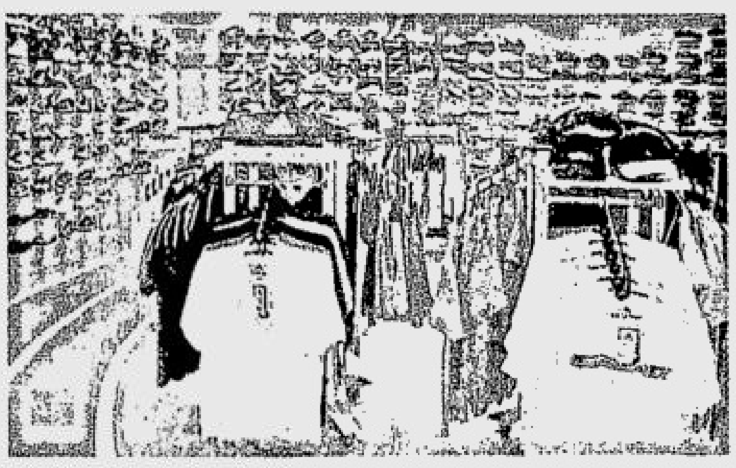
USA Sports is the official outfitter of the MBA (Metropolitan Regional Basketball Inc.) Southern Conference Teams and will be providing game uniforms, practice shirts and shorts, warm-up tops, socks, and accessories such as towels and sports bags to the respective players, coaches' team management personnel and support staff of Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, TPG Davao Eagles, RCPI Negros Slashers and Cagayan de Oro Amigos. USA Sports' new line of apparel and accessories caters to the active and fit lifestyle of every individual.

Basketball fans watching the MBA Southern Conference opening live will also get a chance to win gift certificates from USA Sports if they are spotted wearing any USA Sports apparel in the Outfitter of the Day game.

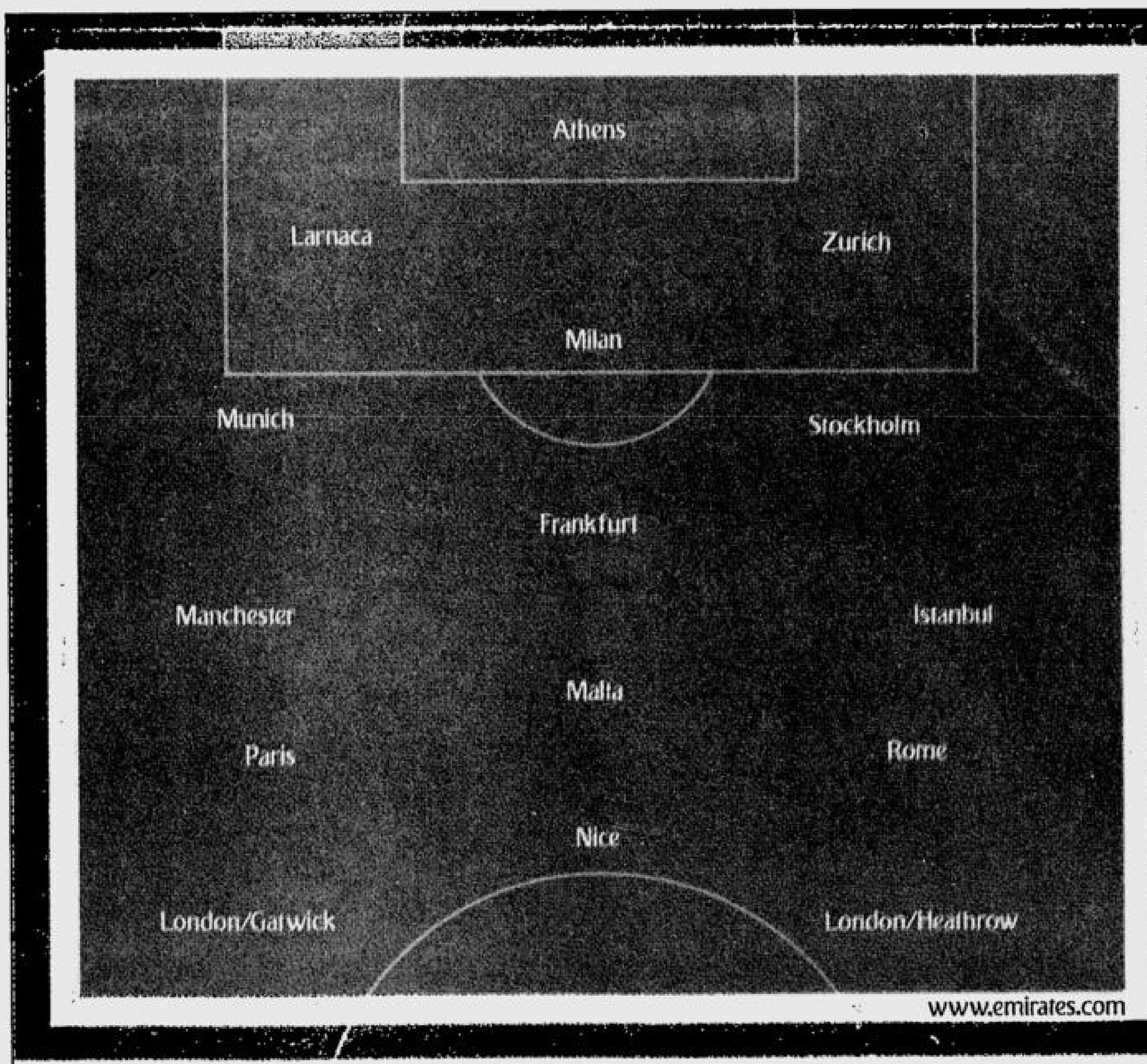
USA Sports' new line of apparel and accessories are available at Festival Mall Alabang, Ayala Center Cebu, SM City Cebu and Iloilo, Gaisano Fiesta Mall in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, Limketkai Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Bacolod and all leading department stores nationwide.

LYNDON Angan, national director for marketing of USA Sports, and Jean Henri Lhuillier, MBA president, shake on the basketball league's new look.

WOMEN'S athletic footwear, just like men's, go through its own share of heavy activities, especially cross trainers. With this in mind, Reebok developed its DMX Series technology, a breakthrough air-chamber shoe system, and appropriated it to its cross-trainer line for women, the U-Sidestep. Distributed locally by RSH Marketing (Phils.) Inc., Reebok shoes and apparel are available at all Reebok and Royal Sporting House stores nationwide.



TOBY'S Sports at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Metro East feature the latest sporting apparel and equipment displayed in an interactive setting. Check out the 14-meter-long shoe wall, which holds over the latest 700 shoe models from basketball to cross training. Gym enthusiasts can try some of the new gym and exercise equipment like exercise bikes, treadmills, benches and weights designed to tone and strengthen any part of the body. Visit Toby's outlets at 3/L Robinsons Galleria and 3/L Robinsons Metro East.



There's no substitute to Europe.

It's hard to match Emirates' 15 destinations and 73 flights a week to Europe.
The service aboard our spacious wide-bodied aircraft is premier league too,
with gourmet cuisine and up to 40 channels of personal inflight entertainment.
So if Europe's your goal, contact Emirates and book your fixture today.

Emirates
Be good to yourself. Fly Emirates.

Over 200 international awards, over 50 international destinations. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on (632) 811-5278. To join Skywards, our frequent flyer programme, visit www.skywards.com

C'mon in, babies, the water's fine

PARENTS can spend quality time with their babies while helping them learn to swim with the "My Baby and Me" program of the country's premier swimming institution, the Bert Lozada Swim School (BLSS). The first and only Parent and Child Swimming Class of its kind in the Philippines, the program was designed and conceptualized by BLSS as a result of its search for the most effective introductory swim program for young children in the United States, Great Britain and Hong Kong.

Children from 6 months to 3 years old learn to go through the four stages of the "My Baby and Me" course with a parent or caregiver with them in the water. The exercises provide a lot of skin-to-skin contact that psychologists say may deepen the bond between parent and child.

At the end of the course, the child will have gained water confidence, learned basic water safety skills and declination for swimming. Self-esteem and social skills are also developed as a result of the interaction with the teacher and other students.

The "My Baby and Me" swim class is being conducted every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at The Spa, RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Buendia Avenues, Makati City. Backed by 50 years of experience, the BLSS is the only swim school in the Philippines affiliated with the National Swim Schools Association of America.

Call 563-5532.

SWIMMING class for kids under 3 and their parents at The Spa, RCBC Plaza every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Little Swimmers
Little Swimmers
Little Swimmers

HASSLE-FREE WATER FUN

Thanks to the new Huggies Little Swimmers Disposable Swimpants, babies can now join in the fun. The first and only disposable swimpants for babies in the country, Little Swimmers has water-repellent outer cover, stretchy sides and leak guards that protect without swelling in water. Each pair of swimpants has tear-away sides for easy removal.

THE LITTLE Gym, a total development and fitness center for children, allows children to visit a different place in the country this summer through songs, games and fun activities. At the end of the quarter, there will be fiesta and a show for parents. Classes are offered on motor development, gymnastics, sports, martial arts and creative crafts. The Little Gym has branches at the Bonifacio Global City in Makati (815-1735/1779), Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong (637-2463 to 64), Katipunan Avenue in Loyola Heights, QC (929-9013/9018) and Festival SuperMall in Alabang (850-4060 to 61).

Choices for the little one in Baby Magazine

BEAUTY queen Michelle Aldana-Heinermann and son Dustic grace the cover of Baby Magazine in its current issue, where she narrates about her life in Germany and the strength of character she showed when she gave birth prematurely.

For those who are thinking of sending their little ones to school soon, Baby Magazine features "Picking preschools: Questions you need to ask for your child's first home away from home."

The magazine also provides a guide on choosing the right shoes for your toddlers plus "everything you wanted to know about dwarfism."

Baby
QUEEN'S LIFE IN EUROPE

Baby Magazine is available in all National Bookstore outlets, Binondo Media outlets, SM Baby Company sections and all leading magazine stands.

Call 751-3655 to 56 or 887-3456.

It's official

CHECK out the new look of the Southern Conference teams when MBA starts its first conference with an opening game at the Cebu Coliseum on April 6.

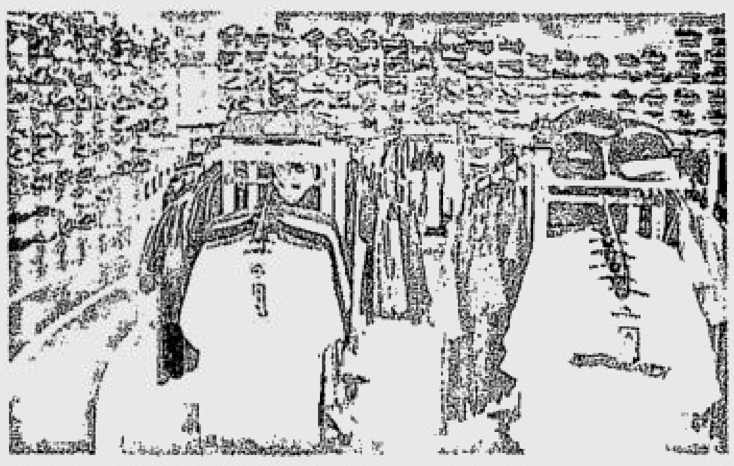
USA Sports is the official outfitter of the MBA (Metropolitan Regional Basketball Inc.) Southern Conference Teams and will be providing game uniforms, practice shirts and shorts, warm-up tops, socks, and accessories such as towels and sports bags to the respective players, coaches' team management personnel and support staff of Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, TPG Davao Eagles, RCPI Negros Slashers and Cagayan de Oro Amigos. USA Sports' new line of apparel and accessories caters to the active and fit lifestyle of every individual.

Basketball fans watching the MBA Southern Conference opening live will also get a chance to win gift certificates from USA Sports if they are spotted wearing any USA Sports apparel in the Outfitter of the Day game.

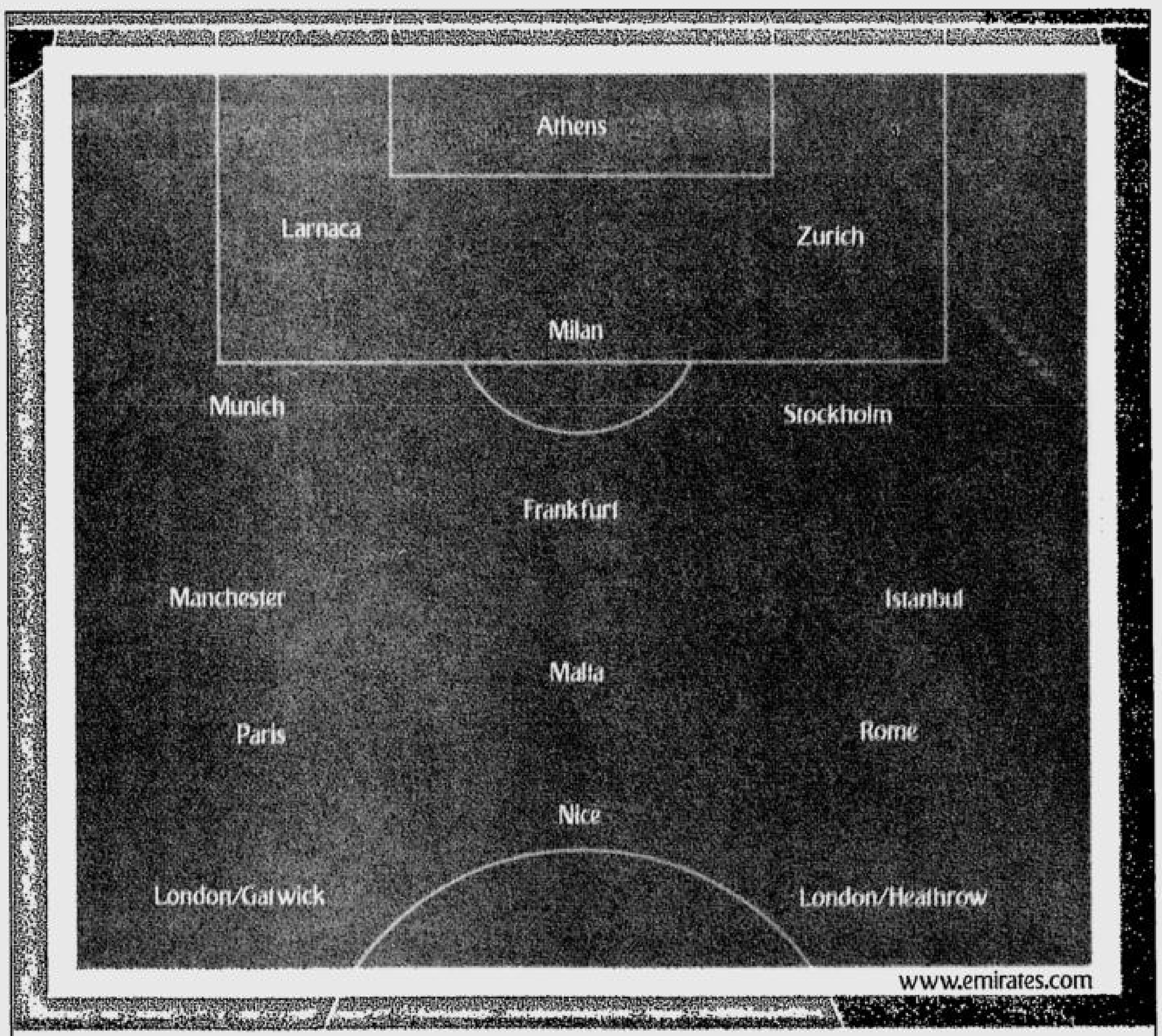
USA Sports' new line of apparel and accessories are available at Festival Mall Alabang, Ayala Center Cebu, SM City Cebu and Iloilo, Gaisano Fiesta Mall in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao, Limketkai Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Bacolod and all leading department stores nationwide.

LYNDON Angan, national director for marketing of USA Sports, and Jean Henri Lhuillier, MBA president, shake on the basketball league's new look.

WOMEN'S athletic footwear, just like men's, go through its own share of heavy activities, especially cross trainers. With this in mind, Reebok developed its DMX Series technology, a breakthrough air-chamber shoe system, and appropriated it to its cross-trainer line for women, the U-Sidestep. Distributed locally by RSH Marketing (Phils.) Inc., Reebok shoes and apparel are available at all Reebok and Royal Sporting House stores nationwide.



TOBY'S Sports at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Metro East feature the latest sporting apparel and equipment displayed in an interactive setting. Check out the 14-meter-long shoe wall, which holds over the latest 700 shoe models from basketball to cross training. Gym enthusiasts can try some of the new gym and exercise equipment like exercise bikes, treadmills, benches and weights designed to tone and strengthen any part of the body. Visit Toby's outlets at 3/L Robinsons Galleria and 3/L Robinsons Metro East.

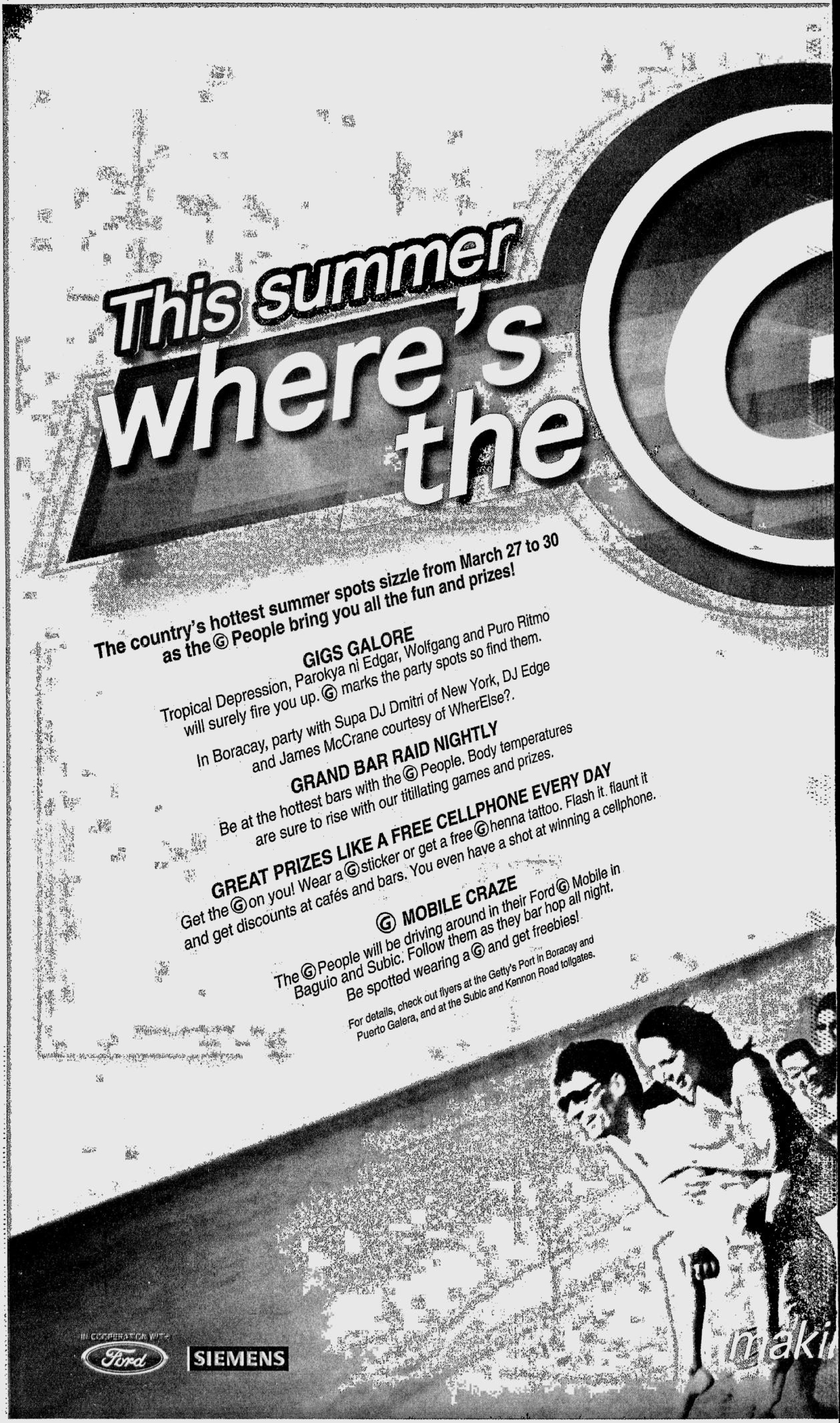


There's no substitute to Europe.

It's hard to match Emirates' 15 destinations and 73 flights a week to Europe.
The service aboard our spacious wide-bodied aircraft is premier league too,
with gourmet cuisine and up to 40 channels of personal inflight entertainment.
So if Europe's your goal, contact Emirates and book your fixture today.

Emirates
Be good to yourself. Fly Emirates.

Over 200 international awards, over 50 international destinations. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on (632) 811-5278. To join Skywards, our frequent flyer programme, visit www.skywards.com



This summer where's the Ⓖ

The country's hottest summer spots sizzle from March 27 to 30 as the Ⓖ People bring you all the fun and prizes!

GIGS GALORE

Tropical Depression, Parokya ni Edgar, Wolfgang and Puro Ritmo will surely fire you up. Ⓖ marks the party spots so find them.

In Boracay, party with Supa DJ Dmitri of New York, DJ Edge and James McCrane courtesy of WherElse?.

GRAND BAR RAID NIGHTLY

Be at the hottest bars with the Ⓖ People. Body temperatures are sure to rise with our titillating games and prizes.

GREAT PRIZES LIKE A FREE CELLPHONE EVERY DAY

Get the Ⓖ on you! Wear a Ⓖ sticker or get a free Ⓖ henna tattoo. Flash it. flaunt it and get discounts at cafés and bars. You even have a shot at winning a cellphone.

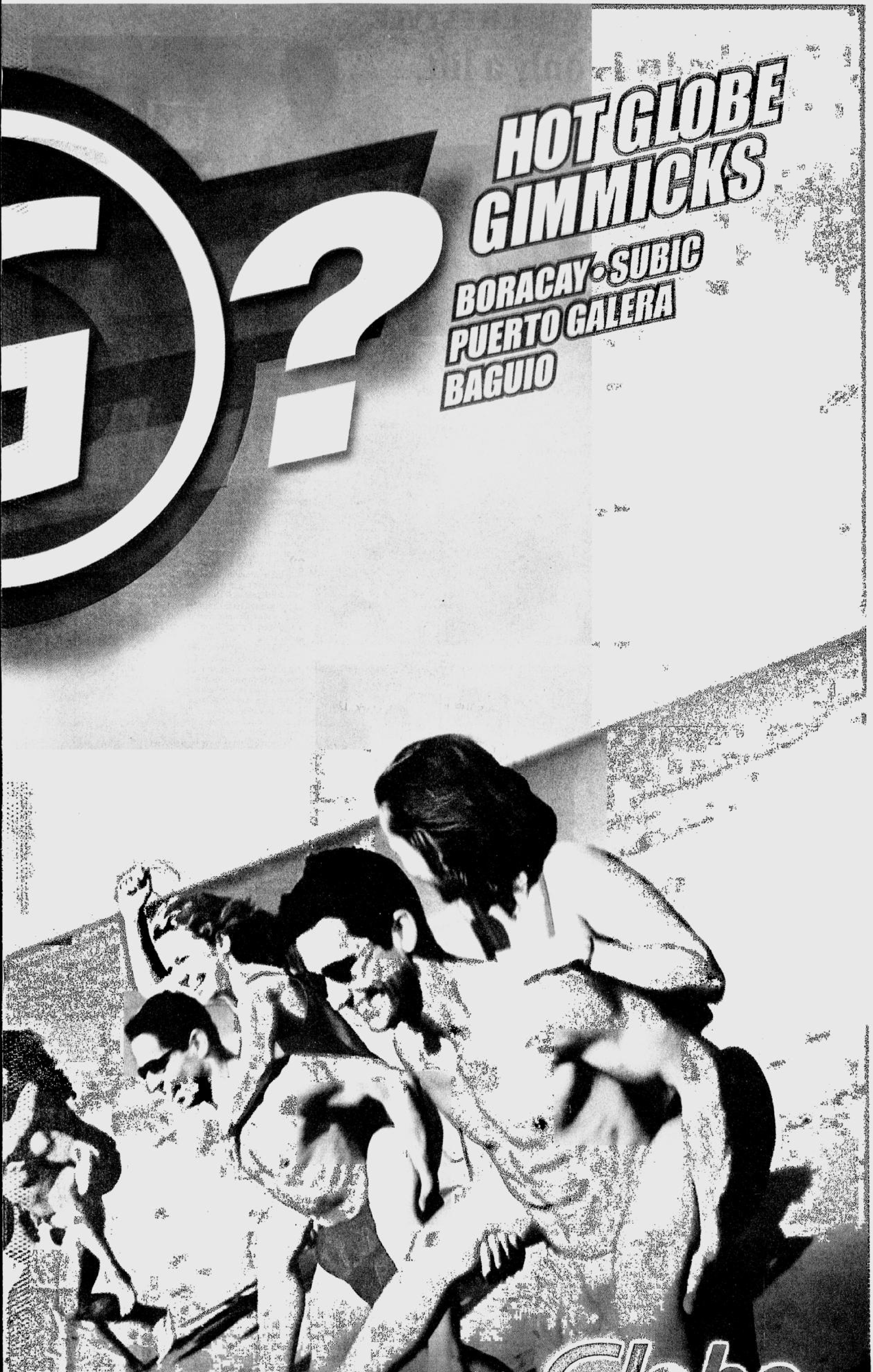
Ⓖ MOBILE CRAZE

The Ⓖ People will be driving around in their Ford Ⓖ Mobile in Baguio and Subic. Follow them as they bar hop all night. Be spotted wearing a Ⓖ and get freebies!

For details, check out flyers at the Getty's Port in Boracay and Puerto Galera, and at the Subic and Kennon Road tollgates.

IN COOPERATION WITH

Ford SIEMENS

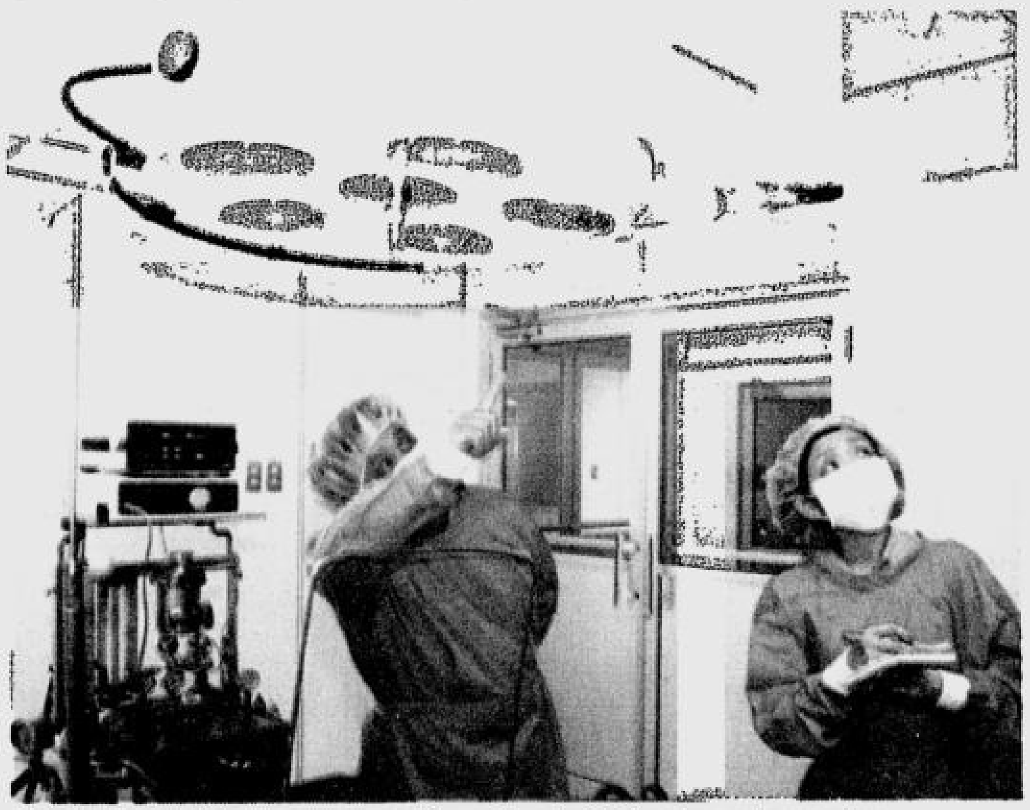

G?
HOT GLOBE GIMMICKS
BORACAY • SUBIC
PUERTO GALERA
BAGUIO
ig great things possible
Globe
HANDYPHONE

Where beauty is only a lift, a nip and a tuck away

By Alex Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

A PATIENT gets a qualitative blood analysis from Dr. Lily Kho.

DR. Joselito Sinchioco uses the vasculight machine to remove a patient's unwanted body hair.


DR. Sinchioco and a nurse prepare the antiseptic OR for the next procedure.

DOCTORS of BBI Medical Inc. (from left) Rommel Almoro, Liying Cheng, Joselito Sinchioco, Liying Cheng, Sammy Uy, Jonathan Dizon with Joyce Ramirez and Wolgang Roehr, marketing director and chair, respectively, of Roehr Group of Co.

SOME of the country's top cosmetic surgeons have combined their expertise to come up with a beauty clinic that offers routine services, from facials to face lifts, in a modern, antiseptic environment far removed from a hospital or mall.

For one, the Beautiful Club (tel. 896-6888), with its well-lit receiving area, comfortable leather seats, shiny floor and wooden interior, looks and feels more like a homey office than an antiseptic clinic. Beyond the receiving area, however, it prides itself in having the cleanest and one of the most modern operating rooms in the country.

Thanks to several high-tech devices, its main OR, where major procedures such as face-lifts, breast augmentations and even laparoscopic surgeries are performed, is said to be virtually dust- and germ-free. Less critical procedures such as lyposuctions, nose lifts and removal of superficial cysts are done in a smaller OR.

"We've been able to match Intel's environment," says Dr. Joselito Sinchioco, president of BBI Medical Inc., "you can open a computer chip in our operating room and not worry about dust."

Privacy

Beautiful Club's obscure location—3/F Saville Building at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Jupiter Street in Makati—also ensures its patients' privacy. They can enter the premises, undergo, say, a nose job, and leave an hour or so later without the likelihood of bumping into friends and acquaintances.

"A patient certainly can't avoid being spotted by others in a mall," says Sinchioco. Unless, of course, her entire face is covered with gauze or the operation has drastically altered her appearance.

The Beautiful Club, through stylist Menchu Magayon, also gives "permanent" cosmetic services. "It's nonsurgical and different from permanent eyebrow and eyeliner using tattoo," says Sinchioco.

Best of all, the Beautiful Club has gone beyond skin-deep procedures to include "total woman care." Thus, Sinchioco, an obstetrician-gynecologist before training as a cosmetic surgeon, also conducts health services for women—from prenatal checkups to hormone replacement therapies. Since the clinic doesn't have a nursery, it's not allowed by law to assist pregnant women deliver their babies.

"Mature women who go to a cosmetic surgeon for a face-lift," Sinchioco explains, "usually suffer from dry skin, hot flashes and high blood pressure caused by menopause. What's the use of having a beautiful, younger-looking face when such problems aren't addressed?"

State-of-the-art

That's why the Beautiful Club has invested in state-of-the-art ultrasound and ECG machines. The clinic, however, is open to everybody. "In fact, more men have had facials in the last two months," says Sinchioco.

Aside from Sinchioco, the clinic also has a resident acupuncturist in the person of Dr. Sammy Uy, chair and founder of BBI Medical Group. He and Sinchioco trained in China for two years before opening the Beautiful Club early this year. Cosmetic surgeons Jonathan Dizon and Bong Cruz, anesthesiologist Rommel Almoro and Chinese consultants Liying Cheng and Zhu Zhixiang complete the Beautiful Club's team of doctors.

"You'll be surprised at the advances China has made in the field of cosmetic surgery," he says. "American doctors may have an edge in marketing themselves and their services, but their Chinese counterparts aren't far behind. In fact, they're way ahead in certain procedures."

Non-invasive

Their breast augmentation procedure, for instance, the product of 15 years of research, is said to be non-invasive, nontoxic and leaves the patient with no scar. Moreover, she—or he—can leave the clinic in less than two hours with a new pair of enhanced breasts.

How do they do that? "We simply inject hydrogel or water-based gel in the armpit area," says Sinchioco. "It's safe, permanent, noncancerous and doesn't rupture. Women can still breastfeed and won't lose the sensation they feel around the nipple area after undergoing the procedure."

Sinchioco, however, insists that he and his colleagues aren't knife-happy. "If the problem could still be solved through nonsurgical means, we would advise patients to avail themselves of other options."

The vasculight machine is one such option. It's said to promote "photorejuvenation" by making acne scars, dark pigments and freckles less noticeable. It also helps remove tattoos and unwanted facial and body hair forever. Doctors also use nonsurgical methods to remove stretch marks, cellulite, varicose and spider veins.

Those who have to go under the knife need not fear. Doctors, nurses and, yes, even nosy reporters have to pass through a so-called air shower before being allowed to enter the OR. The chamber is said to suck dusts and kill harmful germs visitors may be carrying in their hair, clothes and shoes. The OR's six-filter air-conditioner doesn't recycle air and is separate from the main one outside.

"Because of the positive or higher air pressure inside," says Sinchioco, "no air from the outside can enter the operating room. Interlocking doors ensure that no two doors can be opened simultaneously."

As part of its holistic approach to beauty, the Beautiful Club has tied up with the Roehr Group of Co. through the Roehr NutraClinic. It provides patients, especially those who've just undergone lyposuction, with the services of nutritionists to help them devise sensible diet plans. The clinic endorses Roehr's Exofat and Exocal, two so-called synergistic and safe diet medications that regulate carbohydrate and fat intake.

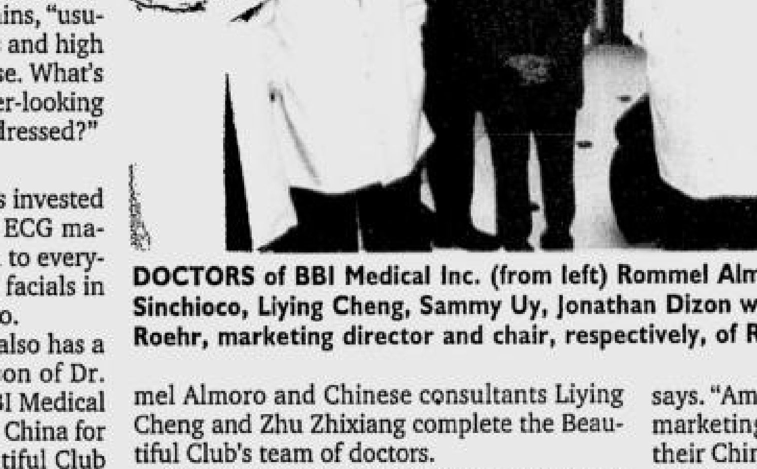
At Beautiful Club, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. And that applies not only to health, but to the pursuit of beauty as well.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

The doctors at the Beautiful Club, where you can go for liposuction, nose-lift, face-lift, breast augmentation and what have you, insist they're not 'knife-happy' and assure patients of privacy

---

Very important points toward healthy skin



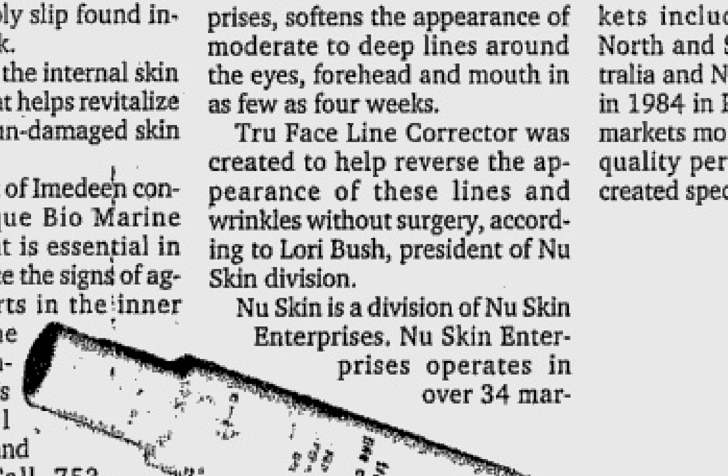
ASIDE from revitalizing your skin, Imedeen gives you another reason to glow through the new consumer loyalty program featuring a VIP Card that helps you earn value-added points with each purchase.

Beginning this month, every time you buy Imedeen tablets, creams or lotion, you will find a sticker inside each box that corresponds to points. Simply collect the stickers and paste to the back of the card. You can apply for your Imedeen VIP Card by sending both the VIP coupon along with the consumer reply slip found inside each pack.

Imedeen is the internal skin care tablet that helps revitalize dull, dry or sun-damaged skin from within.

Each tablet of Imedeen contains a unique Bio Marine Complex that is essential in helping reduce the signs of aging that starts in the inner layer of the skin, thus improving skin's overall smoothness and radiance. Call 753-1132 or 817-1352.

Lines of resistance

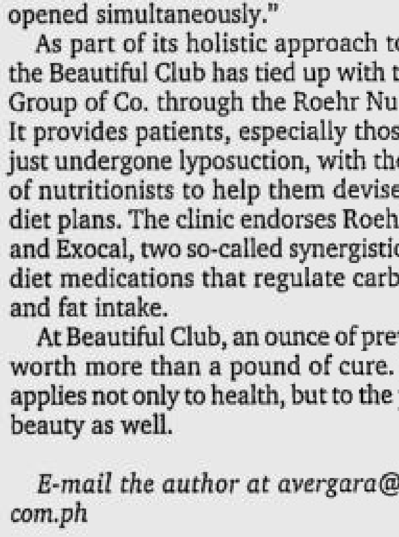


THE NEW Tru Face Line Corrector by Nu Skin, the personal care division of Nu Skin Enterprises, softens the appearance of moderate to deep lines around the eyes, forehead and mouth in as few as four weeks.

Tru Face Line Corrector was created to help reverse the appearance of these lines and wrinkles without surgery, according to Lori Bush, president of Nu Skin division.

Nu Skin is a division of Nu Skin Enterprises. Nu Skin Enterprises operates in over 34 markets including Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand Founded in 1984 in Provo, Utah. Nu Skin markets more than 100 premium quality personal care products created specifically for person-to-person distribution. Call 689-0333 or visit nuskin.com.ph.

Simple regimen



BASIC skin care entails regularly cleaning the face, removing makeup before going to bed, eating healthy, getting a good night's sleep and drinking lots of water. The first of these measures can be accomplished with dermatologist-recommended Cetaphil cleansers and moisturizers.

Free of fragrance and lanolin, noncomedogenic and Ph-balanced, Cetaphil cleaners don't strip the skin's natural protective barriers that may leave it dry and irritated.

Layering even in the summer

Perfumed Body Lotion
Fresh Cologne
Perfumed Talc

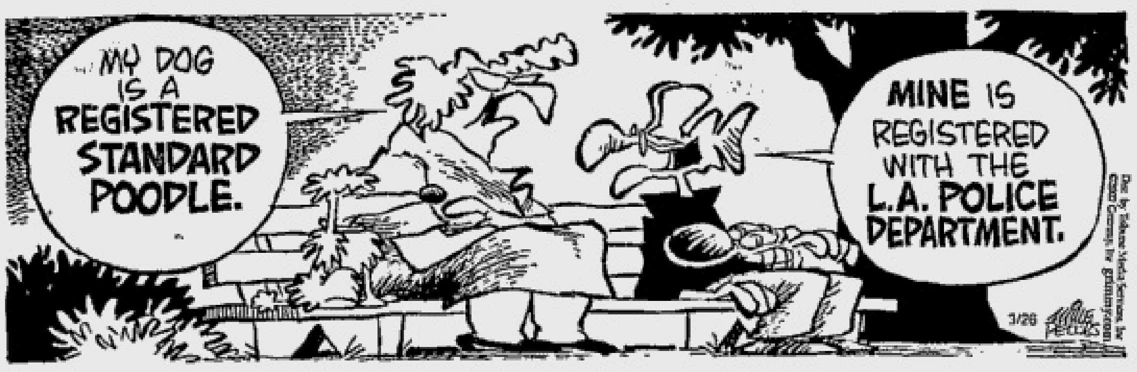
PUCELLE, maker of Fresh Cologne, encourages consumers to layer their scents for longer-lasting fragrance. Cologne, lotion and talc of the same scent are used together to enhance and add new dimensions to the overall effect of your fragrance. Besides offering grooming and cleansing benefits, each scented product makes a chosen scent linger longer. Fresh Colognes, the refreshing colognes with a scent for every mood, now also has Pucelle Body Lotion and Pucelle Perfumed Talc in Pucelle Perfumed Talc in its collection. All Pucelle products are distributed by Mandom Phils. Corp. and are available at all leading malls, supermarket and department stores.

G'Beaute
G'Beaute
G'Beaute

THE UNIQUE red mushroom species has been proven to be effective in treating skin problems and maintaining skin's good health and youthful appearance. This highly potent herb has been carefully formulated with the combination of rich nutrients, Vitamins C and E, and other natural ingredients in Gano Excel's topical skin-care line G'Beaute, a breakthrough in skin-care science. Call 922-3744 or 928-9445.

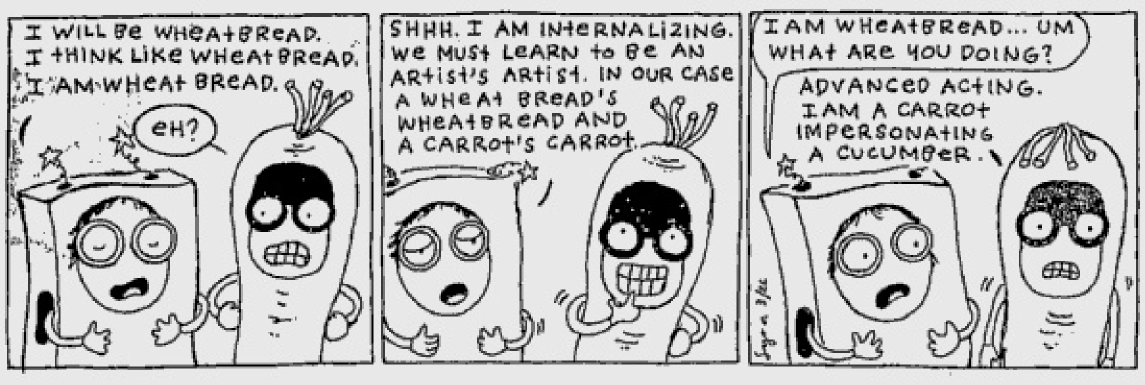
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MY DOG IS A REGISTERED STANDARD POODLE.
MINE IS REGISTERED WITH THE L.A. POLICE DEPARTMENT.
3/26

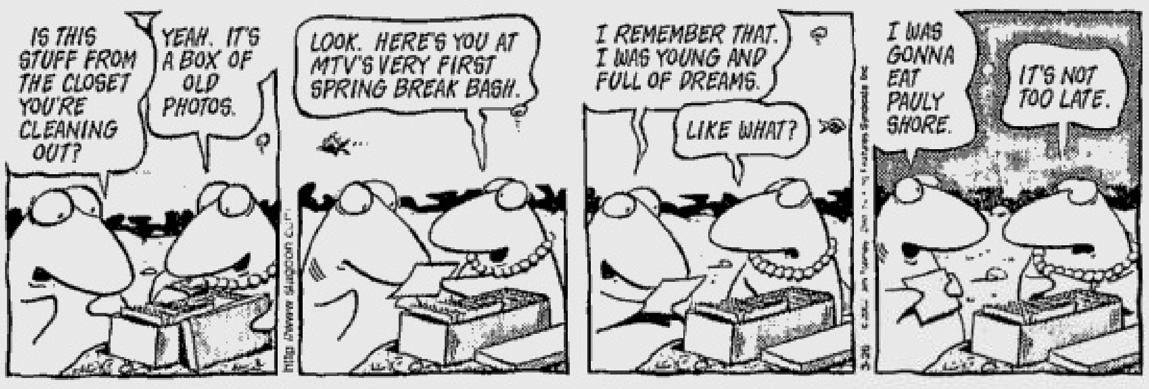
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I WILL BE WHEATBREAD. I THINK LIKE WHEATBREAD. I AM WHEAT BREAD.
EH?
SHHH. I AM INTERNALIZING. WE MUST LEARN TO BE AN ARTIST'S ARTIST. IN OUR CASE A WHEAT BREAD'S WHEATBREAD AND A CARROT'S CARROT.
I AM WHEATBREAD... UM WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ADVANCED ACTING. I AM A CARROT IMPERSONATING A CUCUMBER.

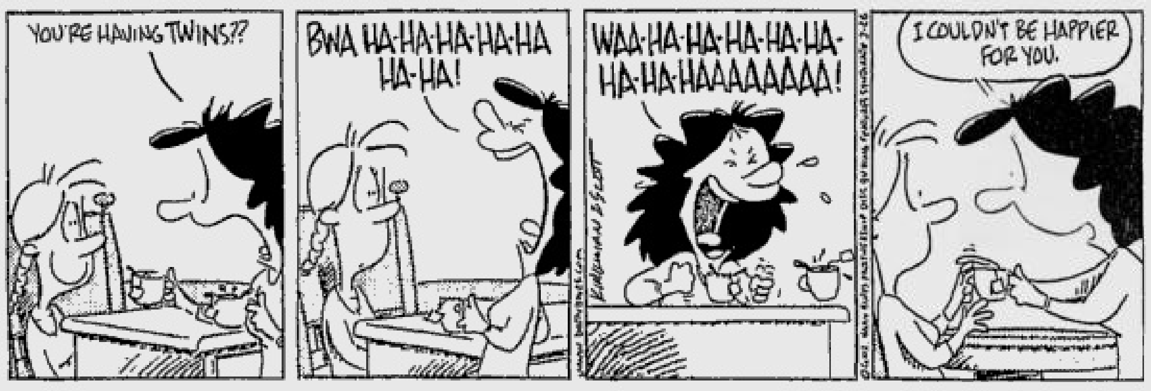
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IS THIS STUFF FROM THE CLOSET YOU'RE CLEANING OUT?
YEAH. IT'S A BOX OF OLD PHOTOS.
LOOK. HERE'S YOU AT MTV'S VERY FIRST SPRING BREAK BASH.
I REMEMBER THAT. I WAS YOUNG AND FULL OF DREAMS.
LIKE WHAT?
I WAS GONNA EAT PAULY SHORE.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE HAVING TWINS?!?
BWA HA-HA-HA-HA-HA HA-HA!
WAA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HAAAAAAAA!
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER FOR YOU.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diana Ross, James Caan, Martin Short, Tennessee Williams

Happy Birthday: Expect to have a heavy workload this year. Added responsibilities may be hard to handle but if you put your mind to it you will find that your determination and discipline will help you accomplish your goals. Be sure to eat properly and get enough rest. You will find happiness and harmony in the partnerships you form. Your numbers :3, 7, 11, 25, 31, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone you are trying to make plans with may let you down today. Be prepared to go it alone if necessary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider getting involved in social outings that are not going to cost you too much. You will meet some interesting people and may even end up getting a job offer out of the deal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You aren't likely to get along well with the people you spend the most time with. Back off and refuse to let someone goad you into an argument.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Think your plans through carefully. If you help someone else you'll be helping yourself as well. The right people will recognize your efforts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make financial gains if you get involved in products or services for the home. You must however be careful not to be led astray by someone who doesn't have your best interests at heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It would be safe to say that you will be a little sensitive today. Try to take things in stride and refuse to let anyone who is tactless upset you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to stop and take another look at your present direction. Are you heading toward the goals you set for yourself or have you become idle for whatever reason? Consider where you are and where you want to be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As long as you don't lend, donate or let others take advantage of you financially, you should do quite well today. Travel, education and sharing with others will highlight your day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Slow down and think before you speak today. You will have a tendency to be a little too uptight regarding your peers. Let everyone do his or her own thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will find different cultural backgrounds interesting today. Try to take part in a community event that will open your eyes to different means and methods of doing things.

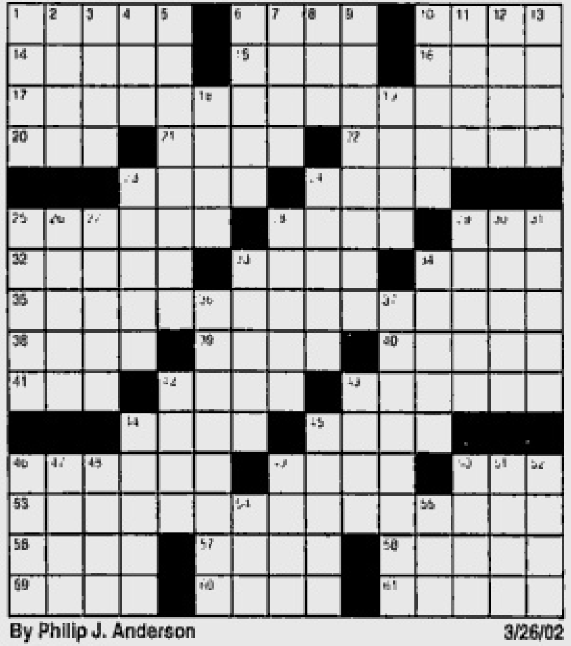
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hold on to your cash even if you do come across a deal that is tempting. In the long run you'll be glad you held on to your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be in a romantic mood today. Be sure to get out and have some fun. The more entertaining you are the greater the response will be that you receive from others.

Birthday Baby: You will be responsible and ambitious throughout life. You will communicate in an exciting and refreshing way. You are intuitive and progressive in all that you do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

3/26/02

ACROSS
1 Highly active
6 Guy
10 Minnesota __
14 "The Medium" or "The Bat"
15 At any time
16 Pelvic bones
17 Remote votes
20 Draft letters
21 Holm and McKellen
22 Walk-on parts
23 Nora's best friend?
24 $$ dispensers
25 Intermediaries
28 Elitist
29 St. with keys
32 Raging
33 Shapely fruit
34 Narrow inlets
35 Castaway sites
38 Tours summers
39 Shakespearean lament
40 Dancer Astaire
41 Mule of song
42 Ready for business
43 Tolerates
44 Hook's mate
45 Spanish river
46 Overjoys
49 Not guilty or guilty
50 __ Tome and Principe
53 Urban eyesores
56 Biting pests
57 Howard and Wood
58 Projecting window
59 "Bed Riddance" author
60 Oxen holder
61 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"

DOWN
1 Extinct birds
2 Police broadcast alerts: abbr.
3 Eliot the crime-stopper
4 Pique
5 Cylindrical container
6 Actress Davis
7 Nights before
8 Bird's bill
9 Deere vehicles
10 Thin layers
11 Cosmetics ingredient
12 Yugoslavian dictator
13 Back talk
18 Makes lace
19 Gentle one
23 Pot sweeteners
24 Diarist Nin
25 Assistants
26 Actress Garbo
27 Whistler's stand
28 Car choice
29 Penalized financially
30 Soup scooper
31 Pompous fools
33 Caribbean peak
34 Transmitter
36 Wall hanging
37 Part of Newfoundland
42 Prophetic sign
43 Eve's son
44 Hidden supply
45 Beethoven's "Fur __"
46 Novelist Connell
47 Turner of "Madame X"
48 Play divisions
49 Young rebel
50 Agitated state
51 Bronze and Iron, e.g.
52 Capital of Norway
54 Scare word
55 Pension $

Monday's Puzzle Solved

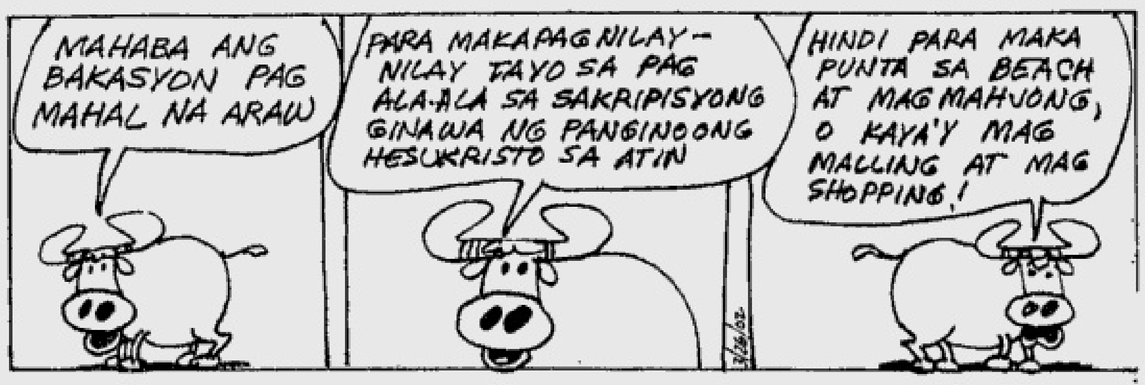
A	L	M	S	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	J	A	R	S
R	I	O	T	■	C	A	R	O	N	■	A	L	E	E
A	C	R	E	■	A	N	G	S	T	■	C	U	B	E
B	E	N	I	G	N	I	■	H	A	C	K	M	A	N
■	■	■	G	E	T	S	■	■	N	O	S	■	■	■
H	O	M	E	L	Y	■	S	I	G	N	O	R	E	T
A	P	A	R	T	■	P	A	L	L	■	N	E	V	A
S	E	N	■	■	G	A	B	L	E	■	■	M	I	X
P	R	O	M	■	A	S	I	S	■	A	P	A	C	E
S	A	R	A	N	D	O	N	■	P	L	A	N	T	S
■	■	■	G	A	G	■	■	O	R	A	L	■	■	■
B	R	Y	N	N	E	R	■	P	O	I	T	I	E	R
L	A	V	A	■	T	O	X	I	N	■	R	O	M	E
E	V	E	N	■	R	U	I	N	G	■	O	T	I	S
D	E	S	I	■	Y	E	S	E	S	■	W	A	T	T

(C)2002 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

3/26/02

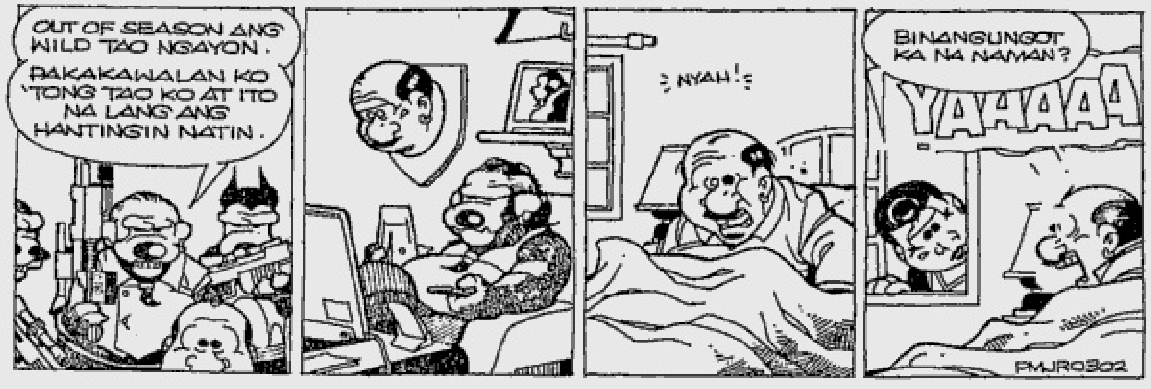
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAHABA ANG BAKASYON PAG MAHAL NA ARAW
PARA MAKAPAGNILAY-NILAY TAYO SA PAG ALA-ALA SA SAKRIPISYONG GINAWA NG PANGINOONG HESUKRISTO SA ATIN
HINDI PARA MAKA PUNTA SA BEACH AT MAGMAHJONG, O KAYA'Y MAG MALLING AT MAG SHOPPING!

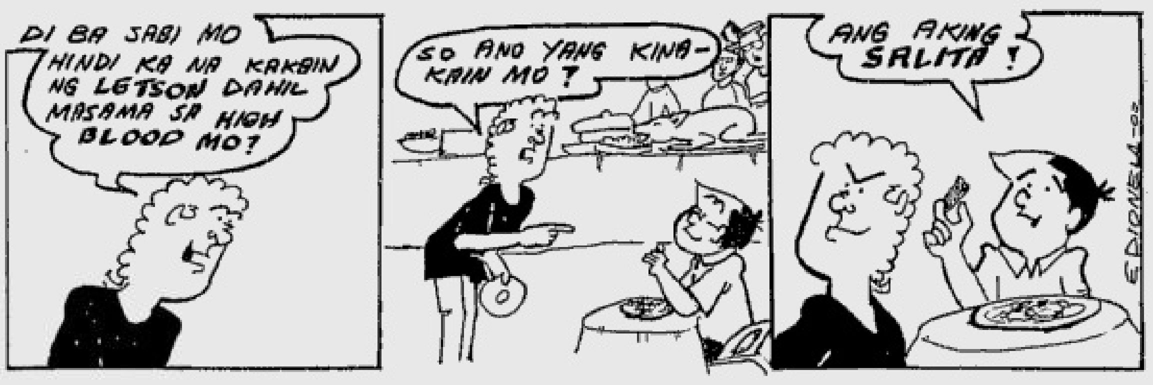
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


OUT OF SEASON ANG WILD TAO NGAYON.
PAKAKAWALAN KO 'TONG TAO KO AT ITO NA LANG ANG HANTINGIN NATIN.
NYAH!
BINANGUNGOT KA NA NAMAN?
YAHAAA
PMJR0302

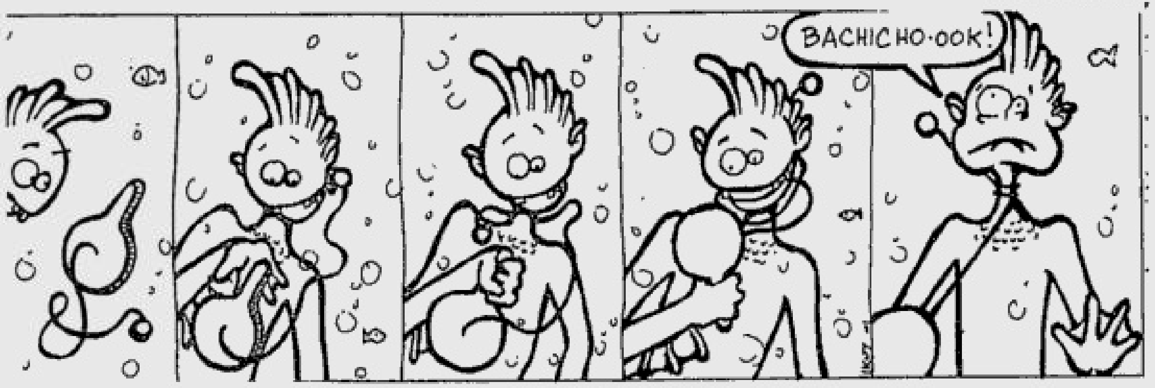
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DI BA SABI MO HINDI KA NA KAKAIN NG LETSON DAHIL MASAMA SA HIGH BLOOD MO?
SO ANO YANG KINA-KAIN MO?
ANG AKING SALITA!
EDIONELA-02

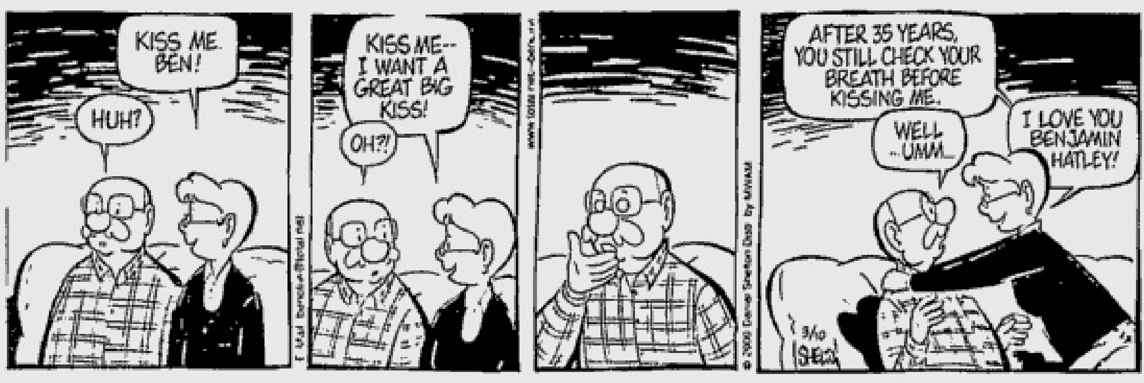
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


BACHICHO-OOK!

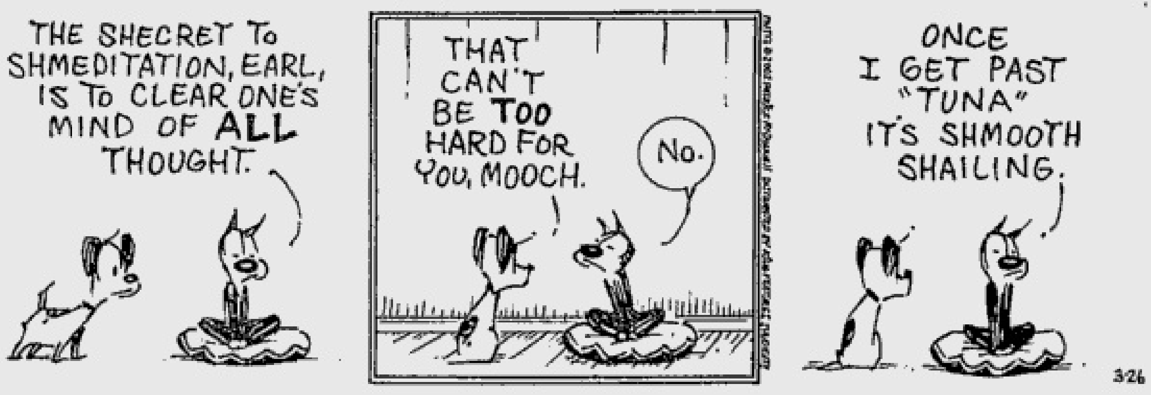
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


KISS ME. BEN!
HUH?
KISS ME-- I WANT A GREAT BIG KISS!
OH?!
AFTER 35 YEARS, YOU STILL CHECK YOUR BREATH BEFORE KISSING ME.
WELL ...UMM...
I LOVE YOU BENJAMIN HATLEY!

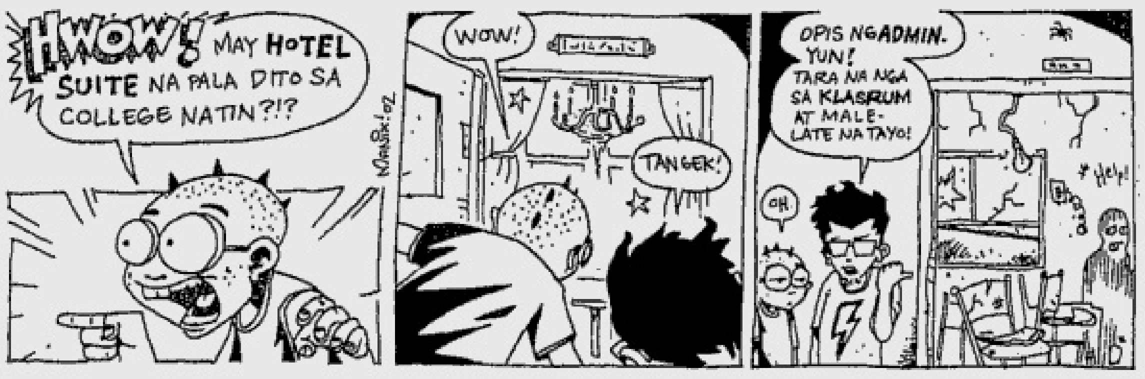
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE SHECRET TO SHMEDITATION, EARL, IS TO CLEAR ONE'S MIND OF ALL THOUGHT.
THAT CAN'T BE TOO HARD FOR YOU, MOOCH.
No.
ONCE I GET PAST "TUNA" IT'S SHMOOTH SHAILING.
3·26

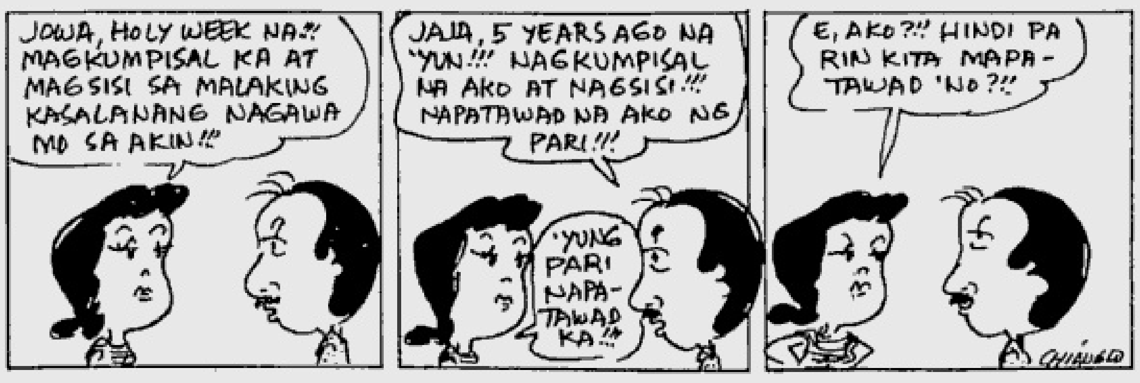
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW! MAY HOTEL SUITE NA PALA DITO SA COLLEGE NATIN?!?
WOW!
TANGEK!
OPIS NG ADMIN. YUN!
TARA NA NGA SA KLASRUM AT MALE-LATE NA TAYO!
OH
HELP!

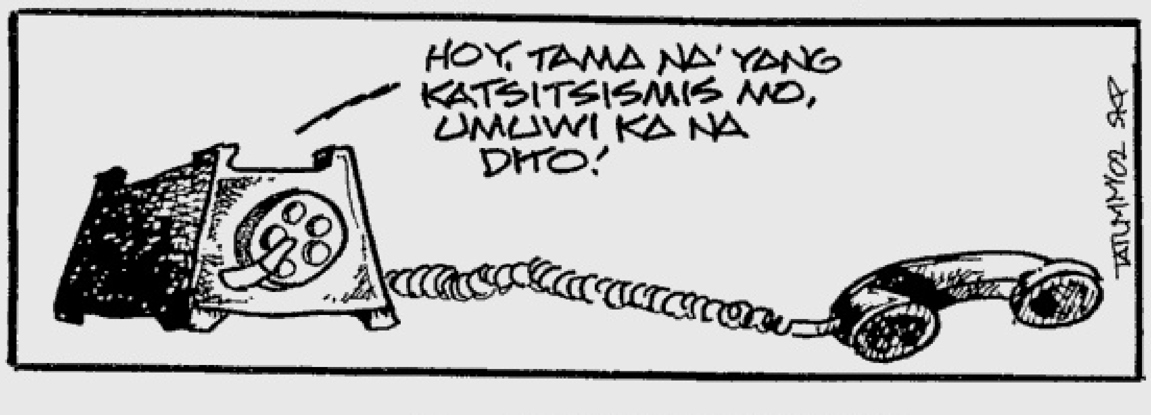
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, HOLY WEEK NA!! MAGKUMPISAL KA AT MAGSISI SA MALAKING KASALANANG NAGAWA MO SA AKIN!!
JAJA, 5 YEARS AGO NA 'YUN!!! NAGKUMPISAL NA AKO AT NAGSISI!!! NAPATAWAD NA AKO NG PARI!!!
'YUNG PARI NAPA-TAWAD KA!!
E, AKO?!! HINDI PA RIN KITA MAPA-TAWAD 'NO?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HOY, TAMA NA 'YANG KATSITSISMIS MO, UMUWI KA NA DITO!
TATUM'02 PAP

Fasting in a soulful way to a healthier body

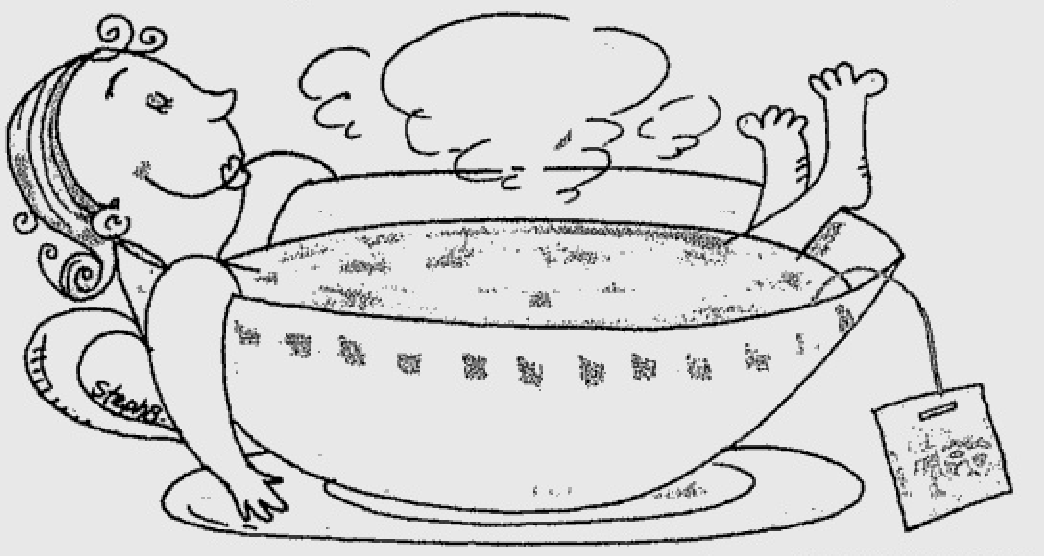


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

OFTENTIMES, we're not aware of the limits of our own bodies. Guided by our appetites, we tend to overload our tummies, ignoring the warning signs that we must stop.

Equipped with built-in radar, our bodies speak to us in the form of signals. They serve as guideposts, and if we heed them well, we can develop rapport with our bodies.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Overloading one's stomach can be taxing to the digestive system. Over time, this abuse can contribute to digestive disorders that may appear minor but can lead to more serious health problems later on.

Body signals

Stop eating when:

- You feel a slight pressure in the abdomen pushing against your pants or skirt waistline.
- Absolutely stop when you burp. This means there is no more room inside your tummy to accommodate food or liquid.

Should you persist in bingeing, you will immediately experience discomfort and flatulence, forcing you to admit, "I over ate." This time, the sitting position becomes unbearable, so you stand up and ask for an antacid. Sounds familiar?

An emergency like this deserves a strong digestive tea, such as ginger or chamomile without sugar. (Sugar will only compromise your digestion.) Or take a cup of hot water mixed with ½ tsp of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). You'll immediately experience relief after taking these friendly brews.

Detox fix

Years of eating poorly, living a stressful life and abusing one's body can reach a saturation point. It is time to give your body a welcome break. Contrary to common belief, denying your body food can ease your stomach and allow it to rest from the daily chore or heavy-duty digestion. Fasting has its benefits. Consider it as rest time for the stomach. Taking nourishing liquids into your system can remove toxin build-up from years of bad eating habits.

Fasting can result in water and weight loss of 2-3 pounds, thus, a smaller waistline, can give a clearer complexion and, more importantly, put your body and mind in a calm, meditative state, making it easier for you to be prayerful and at peace.

> It is time to give your body a welcome break—denying your body food can ease your stomach and allow it to rest from the daily chore or heavy-duty digestion

How to fast

- Have a hearty (but not heavy) meal at dinnertime.
- Next morning, take 1 glass of fresh apple or *buko* juice (my preference because *buko* has lower sugar content), followed by a glass of water.
- In half-hour intervals, alternate with juice, water and fasting tea.
- By dinnertime, take your final glass of juice and water followed by 1 tbsp of extra virgin olive oil to cleanse your system.
- Break your fast with light vegetable and potato soup.

Vegetable broth: In a pot of boiling water, add 2 stalks of leaks and sprig of parsley, a bunch of basil, 2 tomatoes, 2 peeled potatoes, 3 whole cloves of garlic, ¼ red onion, 2 stalks of carrots, pinch of salt and pepper. Allow to boil for 10 minutes. Remove the vegetables, leaving the broth behind. Strain the broth and mix it with tomato and potato. Enjoy your meal.

If you cannot find fasting tea in health food stores like Healthy Options, make your own. Recipe: 3 pc *tanglad* (lemon grass), 3 sarsaparilla sticks, 2 *cogon* roots, 3 banaba leaves (available in Quiapo or Arabia Clinic, tels. 929-6090 or 93). Boil all the ingredients in 1-1/2 gallons of water for 10 minutes.

Health bath

After the fast and before a light meal, take a soothing bath. In a tub of warm water, add 2 cups of blended aloe vera and ½ cup of apple cider vinegar. Bathe for 10 minutes. Once dry, treat your body to brisk body brushing. (Body brush is available at Body Shop.) Stroke from feet to neck to promote circulation and stimulate your skin.

Starve your fear

In keeping with the season, why not embark on yet another unique fast? Get rid of burdens you carry inside that weigh you down. These can be acts of commission or even omission that have haunted you for years. If, like a recurring nightmare, it still bothers you, then take control of it now. Deny it the food it needs to stay alive—your thoughts and energy.

Negative feelings are fears. And fears can only be overcome by faith. Try to be calm. Find a quiet corner and repeat to yourself: "All my fears I leave behind, a positive outlook is now mine. I open my heart to grace, with thanks and full faith."

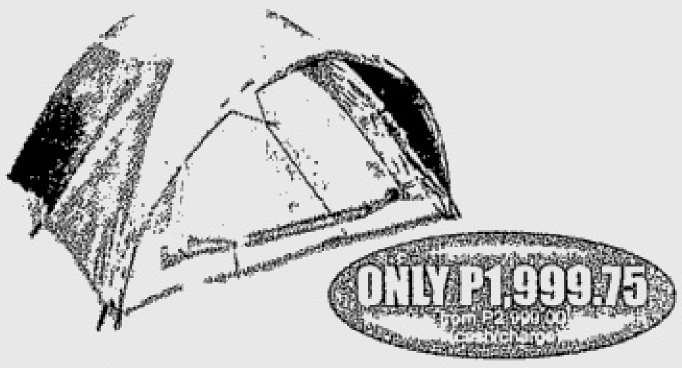
Easter offers a message of resurrection. So I wish you love and light on this day.

E-mail at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

EVEN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS, YOU STILL NEED TO GO INDOORS.

Save P1,000 on a Bobcat Dome Tent!

From March 15 to 31, 2002 pay only P1,999.75 for every single purchase worth P1,000. With the Bobcat's full-storm ply cover, nylon PU coating with PE flooring, waterproof materials, and 3-person capacity (210 x 210 cm) space, you'll have a great shelter outdoors. You'll also have enough money left to actually go camping.



store shop
outdoor Lifestyle company

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 5094 series of 2002.

AYALA MALLS: Park Square 1, Ayala Center, Makati City/Tel. 892-2216 • Level 2, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City/Tel. (032) 233-8796 • ROBINSONS MALLS: Level 3, Robinsons Galleria, Q.C./Tel. 635-4733 • Level 2, Robinsons Place Imus, Imus, Cavity City/Tel. (046) 875-3149 • Ground Floor, Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños (049) 827-0531 • SM MALLS: Lower Ground Floor, SM Fairview, Q.C./Tel. 417-6380 • Level 3, SM Super Center Sucat, Parañaque/Tel. 820-9525 • Upper Ground Floor, SM City Bacoor, Cavite City/Tel. (046) 970-8083 • Upper Ground Floor, SM City Iloilo, Mandurriao, Iloilo City/Tel. (033) 320-2045 • ALABANG: Level 3, Festival Super Mall. Alabang/Tel. 850-3769 • BINAN: Ground Floor, Pavilion Mall, Biñan, Laguna/Tel. (049) 411-5073 • CABANATUAN: Ground Floor, NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija/Tel. (044) 464-0139 • LIPA: Level 2, Fiesta World Mall, Lipa City, Batangas/Tel. (043) 404-0093 • URDANETA: Level 2, Magic Mall, Urdaneta, Pangasinan/Tel. (075) 568-3864

You could be
₱200,000
richer!
SHOP WITH YOUR CARD, GET A CASH REWARD
METROBANK E.T.

Shop with your Metrobank E.T. card in BancNet-accredited establishments. Every ₱500 single purchase entitles you to a computer-generated raffle number which gives you the chance to win as much as ₱200,000. The more you shop, the more chances you have of winning!

JANUARY 4, 2002
1 WINNER OF ₱50,000
10 WINNERS OF ₱5,000

JANUARY 25, 2002
1 WINNER OF ₱50,000
10 WINNERS OF ₱5,000

FEBRUARY 22, 2002
1 WINNER OF ₱50,000
10 WINNERS OF ₱5,000

MARCH 22, 2002
1 WINNER OF ₱50,000
10 WINNERS OF ₱5,000

APRIL 26, 2002
1 WINNER OF ₱200,000

PLUS, ENJOY THE ADVANTAGES OF SHOPPING WITH YOUR METROBANK E.T. CARD:

- No more rushing to and queuing at the ATM when you're short on cash
- Safe, worry-free and easy to use
- Avail of discounts normally given on cash payments
- No more hassles of carrying large amounts of cash

CASHIERS MAY ALSO WIN.
SEE FLYERS. INQUIRE AT ANY METROBANK BRANCH OR CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 898-8701 TO 02 FOR DETAILS. PROMO IS FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2001 TO APRIL 14, 2002.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3892 SERIES OF 2001.

You're in good hands with METROBANK
The country's No.1 bank.
A proud member of BancNet

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; www.metrobank.com.ph; E-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.